

| NEW CANAAN FORECAST                                                               |                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 26–July 1, 2026                                                              |                                                                                                                            |
|  | <b>Friday, June 26</b><br>A couple of showers in the morning; otherwise, mostly cloudy and humid<br>High: 82°F   Low: 68°F |
|  | <b>Saturday, June 27</b><br>Mostly cloudy and humid with a shower<br>High: 74°F   Low: 64°F                                |
|  | <b>Sunday, June 28</b><br>Partly sunny and humid<br>High: 82°F   Low: 66°F                                                 |
|  | <b>Monday, June 29</b><br>Mostly sunny<br>High: 84°F   Low: 66°F                                                           |
|  | <b>Tuesday, June 30</b><br>Partly sunny with a thunderstorm possible in the afternoon<br>High: 87°F   Low: 67°F            |
|  | <b>Wednesday, July 1</b><br>Times of clouds and sun with a thunderstorm possible; very warm<br>High: 88°F   Low: 68°F      |

## Weather Detail

### Friday, June 26 – National Take Your Dog to Work Day

High near 82°F, low around 67°F. Friday starts with a couple of morning showers, then settles into a mostly cloudy and humid day. It is National Take Your Dog to Work Day, so New Canaan offices may have a few extra paws under the desk. Keep the leash close, the water bowl full.

### Saturday, June 27 – National Sunglasses Day

High near 75°F, low around 64°F. Saturday brings times of clouds and sun, with a shower around and humidity still in the mix. National Sunglasses Day may be asking a lot from the sky, but keep the shades handy anyway.

### Sunday, June 28 – National Paul Bunyan Day

High near 81°F, low around 64°F. Sunday looks partly sunny and humid, with a warmer feel returning. National Paul Bunyan Day calls for tall tales, big appetites and maybe a pancake breakfast before the day heats.

### Monday, June 29 – National Camera Day

High near 86°F, low around 65°F. Monday is the winner of the stretch so far, with mostly sunny skies and real summer warmth. National Camera Day fits the forecast. Waveny, Mead Park and downtown New Canaan should all offer a good reason to stop and take a picture.

### Tuesday, June 30 – National Meteor Watch Day

High near 87°F, low around 67°F. Tuesday stays warm and partly sunny, but a thunderstorm could pop up in the afternoon.

### Wednesday, July 1 – International Joke Day and National Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day

High near 90°F, low around 68°F. Wednesday turns hot, with times of clouds and sun and a thunderstorm possible. International Joke Day and National Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day arrive together, which feels right for a humid summer day: keep the jokes light, the ice cream interesting and the weather app close.

## POLICE & FIRE

### Proper Disposal Prevents Home Fires

A recent fire at a New Canaan residence was caused by spontaneous combustion after oil-based stain materials were discarded with construction debris. Spontaneous combustion can occur when oil, stain, gasoline or other solvents contact combustible materials such as rags, towels, sponges or drop cloths and heat builds until ignition. Solvent-soaked materials should not be piled or placed in trash containers; they should be submerged in water in a covered metal container, laid flat to dry on a non-combustible surface away from buildings, and discarded only after fully dry.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Through the store front windows.



Phil Williams, proprietor of New Canaan Music on Main Street, displays Patron du Gateau by Westport artist Steven Kolenik, one of the featured works in the Carriage Barn Art Center's 2026 Art in the Windows exhibition. The annual collaboration between the Carriage Barn Art Center, the New Canaan Society for the Arts and the New Canaan Chamber of Commerce transforms downtown storefronts into temporary galleries, pairing local merchants with artists whose work is exhibited in business windows throughout the town from June 5 through June 27. The exhibition invites residents and visitors to explore New Canaan's business district while discovering artwork by regional artists, with a companion virtual gallery and Community Choice voting encouraging public participation at <https://carriagebarn.org/art-in-the-windows-2026/>. Artwork on display is available for purchase, with 50 percent of each sale going to the artist and the remaining 50 percent supporting the New Canaan Society for the Arts. Williams is among the downtown business owners volunteering storefront space to bring original artwork into the heart of the community while supporting local artists and the Carriage Barn's signature annual exhibition.

## Inside the Charter Fight Over How New Canaan Governs Itself

**"This is a constitutional convention," Mauro said. "For us, it truly is."**

The New Canaan Town Council spent its June 17 regular meeting addressing disputed minutes, reviewing an internal audit report, confirming two appointments and taking a series of nonbinding straw polls on proposed charter revisions that were returned to the Charter Revision Commission the next night.

The first issue of the

meeting involved approval of several sets of minutes. Administrative Officer Tucker Murphy explained that the April 22 minutes had raised a problem because votes on several bond authorization items had been recorded as unanimous after Mauro announced them that way, while Kimberly Norton later said she had intended to vote against certain items.

Murphy said Norton had asked to amend one motion, that amendment failed and the council then returned to the original motion. She said the record showed Mauro

BY ANNE WHITE

stating that the vote was unanimous after several votes, but Norton later said she wanted the minutes to reflect her opposition to some items.

"I've recommended that going forward we do the votes by roll call now so that we don't ever get into this problem," Murphy said.

The votes for the rest of the meeting were by roll call.

**Audit Report and Appointments Precede the Charter Review**

The council received an

update from Bill Bradley on the town portion of an internal audit review. Bradley said the town had engaged CLA, also known as CliftonLarsonAllen, to review town and school processes. He said his presentation was limited to the town report and focused on purchasing policies, procedures, and controls.

"This was actually not a bad report," Bradley said.

He said CLA identified nine areas for improvement, many involving policies, procedures and documentation, including

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## Lifeguards, Leaders and First Responders Make a Splash

BY SENTINEL STAFF

The Board of Selectmen recognized two Parks and Recreation lifeguards for their heroic actions during last week's dramatic vehicle crash into Steve Benko Pool, while also

approving a series of fiscal year 2027 contracts and purchase orders during its June 23 meeting.

The board unanimously approved proclamations honoring lifeguards **Katie Quill**

and **Michael D'Urso**, who sprang into action on June 16 after a vehicle left the roadway, crashed through a fence and entered the pool area.

Parks and Recreation  
Please turn to page 6



At the BOS Meeting June 24 were, from left, Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman George Benington, Aquatic Manager Steve Dayton, First Selectman Dionna Carlson, Lifeguard Michael D'Urso, Lifeguard Katie Quill, Selectman Steve Karl, Parks & Recreation Director John Howe, Police Captain Joseph Farenga, Police Deputy Chief Andrew Walsh, and Interim Fire Chief William Perritt. (Contributed photo.)

## COLUMN

### Safety First

\* \* \*  
*A Safer Summer Starts With Us*

BY STEPHANIE DUNN ASHLEY

The evenings are long, the air is warm, school is out (almost!). Summer is a season many of us look forward to all year. It is a time when we can have a sunset picnic at Tod's Point, soak up some rays at Byram Park, or simply slow down and relax. It is also a time when we have to be extra careful to make sure that our summer is remembered fondly, not tragically.

Summer fun often involves spending more time near water. Remember that

drowning is preventable with some precautions. Drowning rarely looks like it does in movies: it is often silent, without splashing or yelling, and can happen in less than a minute and even in a few inches of water.

Staying attentive around pools and open water, especially with children or pets in the area, is one of the most important ways we can prevent tragedy. You should always designate a "water watcher" —

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## P&Z Rejects Parade Hill

BY PETER BARHYDT

After five meetings, three public hearings and months of debate, the Planning & Zoning Commission voted June 23 to deny a proposal for a 14-unit affordable housing development at 30 Parade Hill Road, concluding that the application did not qualify for special protections under Connecticut's affordable housing law and therefore failed to comply with local zoning regulations.

The application, submitted by GHF Parade Hill Road LLC, an affiliate of Garden Homes Fund, sought approval under Connecticut General Statutes §8-30g to replace an existing single-family home on the 0.37-acre property with a three-story, 14-

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## Valles Pool Lives

BY PAIGE JACKSON

After weeks of community advocacy, the New Canaan YMCA Board voted on June 17th to repair the 46-year-old Valles Pool rather than demolish or repurpose the facility. According to a public statement from the YMCA, the facility will close temporarily during construction, though a timeline has not yet been announced. Of the YMCA's three pools, Valles is the only competition pool, hosting lap swimming, competitive swim programs, and a diving well used by local athletes and teams.

News that the YMCA was considering closing the facility sparked immediate, strong concern throughout the



### The YMCA's Valles Pool Lives to Swim Another Day

community. The pool serves master swimmers, youth programs, and the Caimans Competitive Swimming and Whirlwind Diving teams, which rely on the space for training. The facility also contains half of the YMCA's swimming lanes.

In response, residents swiftly formed Save the

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## Honoring Veterans at America's 250th

**Medal of Honor Stories Ask Us To Remember Service The Sentinel's Reflection of our Nation's 250th Anniversary**

BY ELIZABETH BARHYDT

Retired Marine Corps Maj. James Capers Jr., retired Marine Corps Col. John W. Ripley and retired Army Maj. Nicholas Dockery were awarded the Medal of Honor on June 18 and inducted June 19 into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes after ceremonies in Washington and Arlington, Virginia. The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest military recognition for valor in combat.



Ripley's medal was awarded posthumously. Capers and Ripley were recognized for actions during the Vietnam War, and Dockery was recognized for actions during the war in Afghanistan.

Capers was cited for actions from March 31 to April 3, 1967, while serving as a second lieutenant and team leader with 3d Force Reconnaissance Company, 3d

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## CORRECTION

### Bedford Post Tavern: The missing address

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our recent review of Bedford Post Tavern praised the cozy dining room, attentive service, cocktails, vegetarian choices, mushroom toast, tuna carpaccio, cheeseburger, fries and Milk & Cookies, then committed a practical sin: it forgot the address. Reader Jim noticed, and he had company. A lot of readers asked the same question, because restaurant reviews should not send anyone on a Google Maps scavenger hunt. Bedford Post Tavern is at 954 Old Post Road, Bedford, N.Y. 10506. Its phone number is 914-292-9516, according to Bedford Post Inn. We regret the omission, appreciate the nudge, and will try to make sure future reviews include the destination as clearly as the dessert recommendations. Warm cookies deserve a clear route for hungry readers, every time, with no detours required.



# Hit it outta the park



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NEWS BRIEFS  
From Page 1

FROM TOWN HALL

Steve Benko Pool Season Resumes

The Steve Benko Pool at Waveny Park reopened June 23 after an electric vehicle drove through a gate and into the pool on June 16 while the facility was closed and empty. No injuries were reported, and the vehicle was removed from the water by a tow company. Seasonal memberships remain available for New Canaan residents, with pool hours and program information available through the New Canaan Recreation Department and [newcanaanct.myrec.com](http://newcanaanct.myrec.com).

AROUND TOWN

Village Fair Returns This July

The 2026 Village Fair and Sidewalk Sale will take place July 17 and 18, with sidewalk sales at local stores scheduled for Friday, July 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturday, July 18, more than 100 vendors and organizations are expected to line Elm, Main and Forest Streets from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will include shopping, food, music and family entertainment, with the final vendor list expected in early July.

New Canaan History Trail Debuts

The New Canaan Museum & Historical Society, the Town of New Canaan and five senior interns have created a History Trail at Irwin Park in New Canaan to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The three-quarter-mile route begins near the parking lot closest to Weed Street and includes 80 informational signs about New Canaan's history, from Canaan Parish to the Town of New Canaan. The installation is on display through July 4.

South Avenue Water Main Work Continues

Aquarion's 36-inch water main installation has entered its final stretch, with sections of South Avenue between Douglas Road and Farm Road closed weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for about three months, followed by repaving expected from September through November.

America250 Parade Set For June 27

New Canaan's America250 parade is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, at 9:30 a.m., stepping off from the Lumberyard Lot and proceeding along Elm Street and South Avenue to Saxe Middle School. South Avenue and portions of Elm Street will close, New Canaan Station will not be vehicle-accessible during the parade, and the Farmers Market will not be held June 27.

LOCAL BUSINESSES & NON PROFITS

Matilda Takes New Canaan Stage

Summer Theatre of New Canaan will present Matilda the Musical July 10 through July 26 at 11 Farm Road in New Canaan. Performances are scheduled for Fridays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.; the running time is two hours and 30 minutes. Tickets start at \$29 and are available at [STONC.org](http://STONC.org).

Town Players Announces Our Town Cast

Town Players of New Canaan announced the cast for Our Town by Thornton Wilder, the first production of its 2026–27 season. Directed by Peter Green, the production will feature John Atkin, Penelope Dulmaine, Jackson Fanelli, John Fanelli, Ryan Fanelli, Geoffrey Gilbert, Jessie Gilbert, Savannah Hall, Karen Heck, Jason Papadopoulos, Jennifer Prescott, Larry Reina and Kevin Rishel. Tickets will go on sale soon at [TPNC.org](http://TPNC.org).

Carriage Barn Hosts Watercolor Workshop

Sarah Crossman will teach a three-hour watercolor workshop in July at the Carriage Barn Arts Center. Participants will paint a flower from the Asteraceae family, such as a dahlia, daisy, cosmos, zinnia or echinacea. The class will use one shared reference photo.

Waveny CNA School Receives Grant

Waveny has received a grant through the First County Bank Foundation's 2026 Annual CommunityFirst Grant Program to support The Kathleen M. Fruin, RN, CNA School. The state-accredited Certified Nursing Assistant program uses an earn-to-learn model that covers training costs while allowing students to earn income during instruction. The program includes classroom training, mentored work in skilled nursing, acute rehabilitation and assisted living, and preparation for the CNA certification exam.

Garden Club Receives Park Grant



The New Canaan Garden Club's Irwin Park Committee Chairs attended the New Canaan Community Foundation Awards Coffee last week. The club received a grant from the foundation for the Irwin Park Restoration Project. Photo credit: New Canaan Garden Club

Mounted Troop Strengthens Youth Programs

New Canaan Mounted Troop offers equine care, horsemanship, youth development, and therapeutic riding programs, including its Cadet Corps and Super Troopers program. The Super Troopers program serves 226 children with special needs, while the organization serves nearly 500 children overall. The privately funded organization operates with 25 donated horses, 100 volunteers, and 10 professionals.

YMCA Board Votes To Preserve Valles Pool

The New Canaan YMCA board voted unanimously to do the roof work needed to preserve and maintain the 46-year-old Valles Pool.

PEOPLE IN TOWN

Garden Club Honors Anna Zielinski



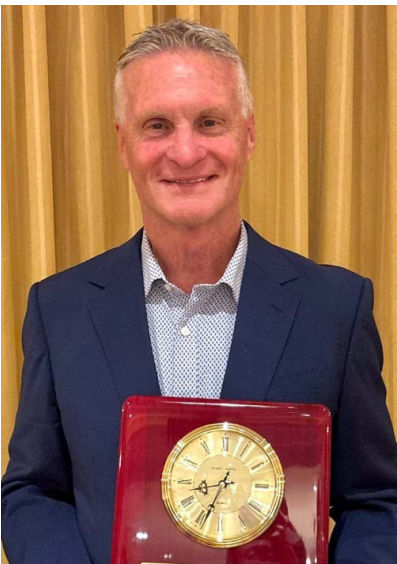
Award to Anna Zielinski, Director of the New Canaan Nature Center Preschool, at its Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. Zielinski was recognized for her work in nature-based education. Photo credit: New Canaan Garden Club

Lifeguards Honored For Pool Rescue



New Canaan lifeguards Katie Quill and Michael D'Urso were honored by First Selectman Dionna Carlson for their response after a Tesla went into the Steve Benko Pool. At the BOS Meeting June 24 were, from left, Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman George Benington, Aquatic Manager Steve Dayton, First Selectman Dionna Carlson, Lifeguard Michael D'Urso, Lifeguard Katie Quill, Selectman Steve Karl, Parks & Recreation Director John Howe, Police Captain Joseph Farenga, Police Deputy Chief Andrew Walsh, and Interim Fire Chief William Perritt. (Contributed photo.)

Egan Receives FCIAC Honor Award



New Canaan High School Athletic Director Jay Egan received the John J. Kuczo President's Honor Award at the FCIAC Annual Awards Banquet. The award recognizes contributions to high school athletics and professional standards in leadership, integrity, and service. Photo credit: New Canaan Public School

THE ENVIRONMENT

New Canaan Firefly Night Returns

The New Canaan Nature Center will host a Midsummer Night event on July 11. The program will include a lesson about fireflies, a guided trail walk with naturalists, and a visit to the meadows to observe more than 1,000 fireflies.

SCHOOLS

Welch Wins National Debate Title

St. Luke's School student Maeve Welch '26 won first place in Extemporaneous Debate at the National Speech and Debate Tournament in Richmond, Virginia. Welch received a 7–0 decision from the judges in the final round after competing in a field of 1,070 participants from around the world. The competition included 13 rounds over four days.

SPORTS

New Canaan 8U Opens Tournament

New Canaan Softball's 8U girls are competing in their first tournament in Trumbull this weekend, as several program teams take part in tournament play. The team opened the tournament with two competitive games, including a matchup against Darien. Tournament play continues through the weekend.

Zheng Claims State Invitational Crown



New Canaan girls tennis player Leah Zheng won the 2026 State Invitational title. Photo credit: New Canaan Girls Tennis

FROM HARTFORD

Summer Food Benefits Going To 350,000 Children

The state announced that families of more than 350,000 Connecticut children are receiving \$120 per child through Summer EBT, with more than \$42 million expected to go to Connecticut families this summer.

Connecticut Primary Rules And Races Set

Connecticut's Aug. 11 primaries include a statewide Democratic gubernatorial primary, and CT Insider notes that Connecticut's closed primary system limits voting to voters registered with the party holding the primary. In Fairfield County, Republicans in the 4th Congressional District will choose between Michael Goldstein and Daniel Miressi.



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# New Canaan Town Council votes

A simple guide to what was voted on - and how each member voted

June 17, 2026

Key

Y

 Yes 

N

 No 

A

 Absent 

RY / RN

 relayed yes / no 

\* or ?

 qualified or unclear

11

 vote items 

2

 formal actions 

3

 CRC items supported 

6

 items not supported

| Item being voted on | Outcome | Rdg | Fon | Orm | Ros | Nor | Zon | Rus | Lee | Mau | Nau | You | Thu |
|---------------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|---------------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Formal actions

|                                                                                                                                       |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>F1</div> <div>Approve meeting minutes</div> <div>Approved Apr. 22, May 27 and June 10 minutes; May 20 was tabled.</div>          | <div>APPROVED</div> <div>9-0</div> <div>present</div> | <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>A</div> <div>A</div> <div>A</div> |
| <div>F2</div> <div>Approve two appointments</div> <div>Confirmed Alan Badanes for BOF alternate and Bernie Clarke for Aquarion.</div> | <div>APPROVED</div> <div>9-0</div> <div>present</div> | <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>A</div> <div>A</div> <div>A</div> |

CRC straw polls

|                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>C1</div> <div>Term limits for appointed boards</div> <div>Would cap service at 12 consecutive years, then require a one-term break.</div>                          | <div>NOT SUPPORTED</div> <div>5-7</div> <div>yes-no</div>  | <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y*</div> <div>N</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div>  |
| <div>C2</div> <div>Council approval for town real-property changes</div> <div>Would require Town Council approval for changes involving town-owned real property.</div> | <div>SUPPORTED</div> <div>12-0</div> <div>yes-no</div>     | <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>RY</div> <div>RY</div> <div>RY</div>   |
| <div>C3</div> <div>Confirm Planning and Zoning appointments</div> <div>Would require council confirmation of Board of Selectmen appointments to P&amp;Z.</div>          | <div>SUPPORTED</div> <div>12-0</div> <div>yes-no</div>     | <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>RY</div> <div>RY</div> <div>RY</div>   |
| <div>C4</div> <div>Add three Ethics Board alternates</div> <div>Would add alternates so the Ethics Board can hear matters when members are absent or recused.</div>     | <div>SUPPORTED</div> <div>11-1</div> <div>yes-no</div>     | <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y*</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>RY</div> <div>RY</div> <div>RN</div>  |
| <div>C5</div> <div>Technical and conforming cleanup package</div> <div>Would bundle definitions updates, obsolete-language deletions and cleanup edits.</div>           | <div>NOT SUPPORTED</div> <div>2-10</div> <div>yes-no</div> | <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y?</div> <div>N</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RY*</div> |

Additional straw polls

|                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>A1</div> <div>Elected Board of Finance ballot question</div> <div>Would ask voters whether BOF should move from appointed to elected members.</div>                   | <div>NOT SUPPORTED</div> <div>4-8</div> <div>yes-no</div> | <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div>  |
| <div>A2</div> <div>Hybrid BOF / P&amp;Z model</div> <div>Would explore a hybrid system with a bare majority elected and the rest appointed.</div>                          | <div>NOT SUPPORTED</div> <div>4-8</div> <div>yes-no</div> | <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div>  |
| <div>A3</div> <div>Elected Planning and Zoning ballot question</div> <div>Would ask voters whether Planning and Zoning should move from appointed to elected members</div> | <div>NOT SUPPORTED</div> <div>4-8</div> <div>yes-no</div> | <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y</div> <div>N*</div> <div>N</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div> |
| <div>A4</div> <div>Broader charter language on the Code of Ethics</div> <div>Would expand or revise the charter language covering the Code of Ethics.</div>                | <div>NOT SUPPORTED</div> <div>3-9</div> <div>yes-no</div> | <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>Y</div> <div>N</div> <div>N</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div> <div>RN</div>  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>Member code key</div> <div><div>Rdg</div> Michael Rodgers <div>Nor</div> Kimberly Norton <div>Mau</div> Michael Mauro</div> <div><div>Fon</div> Janet Fonss <div>Zon</div> Jennifer Zonis <div>Nau</div> Maria Naughton</div> <div><div>Orm</div> Hilary Ormond <div>Rus</div> Heather Russell <div>You</div> Penny Young</div> <div><div>Ros</div> Cristina Ross <div>Lee</div> Lina Lee <div>Thu</div> Eric Thunem</div> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Notes

- Formal votes count only members present. Maria Naughton, Penny Young and Eric Thunem are marked absent on those votes.

- Charter Revision Commission items and additional items were advisory straw polls, not final charter changes.

- RY and RN mean the chair relayed that absent member position. A star or question mark marks a qualified or unclear position



## Town Council Meeting

### From Page 1

purchasing-policy updates, emergency-purchase procedures, vendor management, purchase-card controls and training on the Tyler Munis system. Council members asked about invoice tracking, purchase cards and implementation timelines, while town officials said several corrective steps were already underway, including tighter purchase-card controls and a working checklist for follow-up.

The council then unanimously confirmed Alan Badanes as an alternate member of the Board of Finance for a term ending Dec. 1, 2027, and Bernie Clarke as New Canaan's representative policy board member for the Aquarion Water Authority for a term ending June 30, 2027.

First Selectman Dionna Carlson spoke in support of Clarke's appointment. She said the position was created following the sale of Aquarion Water to the Regional Water Authority and that each town in the system needed a representative.

"Bernie is a current member of the Utilities Commission," Carlson said. "If you look at his background, he worked at Moody's. He did some rating of utilities."

Carlson said Clarke also lives in the area served by Aquarion Water and has been a consistent participant on the Utilities Commission.

"He understands it," Carlson said. "He's affected by it. So I thought he would be an excellent representative."

#### Public Comment Focuses on Whether Appointed Boards Should Remain Appointed

Public comment focused largely on whether members of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Finance should remain appointed or become elected.

Selectman Amy Murphy Carroll, a former Board of Finance member, urged the council to preserve the current appointment system. She said New Canaan's structure gives voters a direct role in electing the executive and legislative branches, while those elected bodies appoint members to boards and commissions through a vetting process.

"While admittedly not perfect, I believe our current government system works pretty well, actually incredibly well," Murphy Carroll said.

Murphy Carroll said boards such as Planning and Zoning and the Board of Finance need to operate in a nonpartisan manner and make decisions based on the town's long-term interests.

"Running for office is hard," Murphy Carroll said. "It takes a lot of money and I think those of us who have run for office frankly would generally agree this money could be better spent in other endeavors."

Murphy Carroll said New Canaan should not assume that elected-board systems in other towns are better suited to New Canaan.

"I have heard arguments that X number of other towns have elected boards versus appointed and I would counter that our town government is the envy of many," she said.

Sarah Pierce, speaking remotely, urged council members to place their views clearly on the record. She said the Charter Revision Commission should not force consensus where none exists and said the public record matters because residents need to understand the arguments being made.

"I hope that you'll say your honest thoughts

into the record because you have really good feedback to give this commission," Pierce said.

#### Zonis Says Ethics Allegations Should Not Become Accepted as Fact After Formal Review

Zonis later addressed comments about ethics questions, conflicts and public trust. She said public officials should respond when broad assertions are made in public meetings, particularly when those assertions concern ethics or alleged conflicts of interest.

"I do feel that what happens often is people on different sides of the issue, perhaps than I am, make broad statements than are then left out in the ether," Zonis said.

Zonis said residents may file ethics complaints, but the existence of a complaint or allegation does not establish misconduct. She said one matter had been reviewed and rejected by the Ethics Committee.

"Anybody can raise an ethics complaint and it was shot down by the ethics committee," Zonis said.

She said the existence of an allegation or the asserted appearance of a conflict did not establish wrongdoing.

"Just because it is said and there is an appearance does not mean anything untoward happened," Zonis said.

Zonis said the process had been conducted properly and that officials should answer claims directly when they believe they are inaccurate.

#### Council Members Split Over Whether Appointed Boards Need Direct Electoral Accountability

Mauro said the council had received the Charter Revision Commission's draft report on May 4 and had held multiple discussions and hearings since then. He said the purpose of the June 17 discussion was to give the commission guidance through straw polls, not to take final binding votes.

Many Charter Revision Commission (CRC) members said that they had not listened to the comments of the Town Council by the time the CRC met the following night.

Russell urged the council to recommend that voters be allowed to decide whether the Board of Finance should become elected rather than appointed. She said New Canaan is unusual in giving an appointed finance board significant authority and said the question should go to voters as a separate ballot item.

Norton urged the council to recommend stronger ethics language in the charter, including provisions on public disclosure of conflicts of interest, recusals and documentation in meeting minutes. She also objected to proposed charter language involving dismissal of seasonal and part-time employees and administrative policies governing elected and appointed officers.

Rodgers spoke in favor of a hybrid model for the Board of Finance and Planning and Zoning Commission, with a bare majority of each board elected and the remaining members appointed. He said that approach would preserve appointed expertise while giving residents a direct role.

#### Zonis Says Experience With the Budget Process and Appointed Boards Matters Before Proposing Structural Change

Zonis opposed converting the boards to elected bodies. She said the appointment system works in New Canaan and that the town's financial and school performance reflect effective governance.

"We are laser focused on what is best for this town," Zonis said.

Zonis said she had respect for her colleagues and believed council members reached

conclusions through integrity and work. She said, however, that some members were making broad judgments about the Board of Finance and other appointed bodies before having more experience with the council's full cycle of meetings and budget review.

She said those members had not been on the Town Council "for more than a year" and had not yet experienced the repeated meetings involved in watching the Board of Finance process develop over time.

Zonis said the Board of Finance does more than make value judgments. She said its work also reflects "incredible diligence" and "many many years of institutional knowledge" about town departments.

"I feel that perhaps a little more experience is needed before you can make sweeping generalizations like that," Zonis said.

Fonss also supported the appointed-board model, saying the town benefits from residents with professional expertise who volunteer for service.

#### Mauro Intervenes After Russell Accuses Zonis of Saying Democracy Does Not Matter at the Local Level

A tense exchange followed Zonis's comments about representative government and the appointment system. Russell responded that the issue was whether voters should be allowed to decide the structure.

"It's not whether appointed or elected is good or bad," Russell said.

Russell then accused Zonis of saying democracy does not matter at the local level, a characterization that Zonis immediately rejected. Mauro intervened and emphasized that members should not attribute views to one another inaccurately.

"I want to make sure we continue to be precise in how we're recording these proceedings and everyone is being attributed to correct attributions to what they're saying," Mauro said.

Mauro said members should have an opportunity to correct inaccurate characterizations, including instances where one member may be "putting words in someone else's mouth."

Zonis reiterated that she believed in democracy and said her comments reflect that.

#### Council Straw Polls Show Support for Some Charter Items and Rejection of Others

The council then went through the Charter Revision Commission's five recommendations.

The first recommendation, establishing 12-year term limits for appointed boards, commissions and committees, received five yes votes and seven no votes.

The second recommendation, requiring Town Council approval for certain changes to town-owned real property, including changes in use, capital leases, sales or transfers, was supported unanimously.

The third recommendation, requiring Town Council confirmation of Board of Selectmen appointments to Planning and Zoning, was supported unanimously.

The fourth recommendation, adding three alternates to the Ethics Board, received broad support, with Thunem relayed as the only no vote.

The fifth recommendation, a broad category of technical and conforming charter changes, drew substantial concern. Mauro said the proposal grouped too many changes together and could leave voters unsure what they were approving.

Mauro also objected to proposed language making certain elected and appointed town officers subject to administrative rules, policies

and procedures. Speaking as an employment lawyer, he said the wording was too broad and could create conflicts with collective bargaining agreements, insurance coverage and other provisions of the charter.

The council then took additional straw polls. A proposal to put before voters whether the Board of Finance should change from appointed to elected failed, 4-8. A proposal to change both the Board of Finance and Planning and Zoning to hybrid appointed-elected bodies also failed, 4-8. A proposal to change Planning and Zoning from appointed to elected failed by the same count. A proposal to expand or modify the charter's reference to the Code of Ethics failed, 3-9.

#### Board of Finance Property-Ownership Requirement Raises a Separate Legal Question

The council also discussed removing a charter requirement that Board of Finance members own real estate. Ormond said the town had received legal advice indicating that the requirement may be unlawful and should be removed. Council members discussed whether that change could be included as a conforming change rather than as a separate ballot question.

The issue returned the next night at the Charter Revision Commission meeting. Corbet said the current charter requires a Board of Finance member to be an elector and a taxpayer, specifically a property owner or real-estate taxpayer, and said voters rejected a 2016 proposal to remove that requirement.

The legal discussion centered on state authority and federal constitutional concerns. Palo cited Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 7-340, saying it requires electors and taxpayers for boards of finance in statute towns and gives non-statute towns such as New Canaan the option. Bamonte said the existence of a state statute does not end the federal constitutional analysis and said property ownership as a condition for public service raises a constitutional concern.

The U.S. Supreme Court addressed a freeholder requirement for school board membership in Turner v. Fouché in 1970, ruling that the requirement violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

#### Mauro Frames the Charter Review as a Local Constitutional Convention Before Commission Takes Up the Issues Again

Mauro closed the council's charter discussion by saying members had placed their recommendations on the record before the Charter Revision Commission resumed its work. He framed the charter review as more than routine municipal housekeeping, saying the process concerned the document that defines how New Canaan's government is organized, how authority is assigned and how residents participate in decisions.

"This is a constitutional convention," Mauro said. "It really is, right? For us, it truly is."

Mauro said the timing was notable because the town was reviewing its charter as the country approached its 250th anniversary. He said council members and Charter Revision Commission members approached the process with different perspectives and experiences, but shared a responsibility to produce a clear set of recommendations.

"We all approach this with different perspectives and experiences," Mauro said. "But I know we're all here in good faith trying to figure it out."

The council then voted unanimously to adjourn.

# Charter Panel Splits Over Term Limits, Finance Board Eligibility

New Canaan's Charter Revision Commission left its June 18 special meeting divided over three charter issues and over how much weight to give the Town Council's response to the commission's May 4 draft report.

The special meeting was convened the night after the Town Council completed straw polls on the commission's recommendations. Chair Kathleen A. Corbet said the council's written response, drafted by Hilary Ormond and approved by Michael Mauro and Janet Fonss, would be incorporated into the next version of the commission report. The commission then moved through the council's votes and comments, beginning with term limits for appointed board, commission and committee members.

The council's term-limit straw poll showed five members supporting the commission's proposal and seven opposing it. The commission's earlier vote had been 6-4 in favor. Joseph Palo said the combined tally showed an 11-11 split between the two bodies, which he said showed how close the issue remained.

The debate turned quickly to whether the council's vote should cause the commission to reopen the issue. Several commissioners said the council's feedback did not materially change the commission's record. William Parrett, participating by phone, said he had not reviewed the tape of the council meeting. Asked by Corbet whether he had listened to the meeting, Parrett said, "I did not, but I had two separate accounts of it." He said he would listen to the tape, but added that he did not think the issue was worth reconsidering.

Karen Willett also questioned whether the council discussion added substance to the commission's work. "I did not hear anything new last night," Willett said. "More importantly, I do not think they knew the depth of our discussions." She said she was surprised that the council had not discussed what the commission had said "for many weeks."

Parrett later said the Town Council "did not give us any strong direction," according to the transcript. Palo took a similar position, saying he "did not hear any new information from the Town Council, pro or con." Palo said the information before the commission had not expanded and that revisiting the issue would not take the commission "anywhere new."

Other commissioners treated the council vote as new information. Corbet said the commission's role was to receive the council's feedback, take its recommendations and decide whether anything learned in the process should affect the final report. Corbet also told members that if the term-limit proposal remained unchanged, there was a high probability the Town Council would reject it and keep it off the ballot. Willett said the fact that a majority of the council opposed term limits was "the new information" for her and voted to reopen the question.

The commission did not settle the matter. Corbet said the tally was five members to keep the issue closed and five to reopen it, with Chris LeBris absent. She said LeBris favored reopening

the discussion, but Parrett objected to counting absent members in either body's straw poll. The commission moved on after Jennifer Holme suggested identifying all items that might need more discussion.

The meeting also included a later exchange indicating frustration over the Town Council's role in ballot decisions. During discussion of whether Board of Finance property-owner eligibility should be a separate ballot question or fall into the catchall item, Holme said the Town Council ultimately controls what goes on the ballot. One speaker said, "They don't seem to listen to us anyway," followed by another saying, "They're not listening to us, so it doesn't matter."

Other proposed ballot items drew less resistance. The commission did not reopen the proposal requiring Town Council approval for changes to town-owned real property, the proposal requiring council confirmation of Planning and Zoning Commission appointments, or the proposal adding three alternates to the Board of Ethics. Corbet said the real-property and Planning and Zoning confirmation items had each received 12-0 support from the council, while the Ethics Board alternates proposal had received 11-1 support.

The fifth proposed referendum item, the technical and conforming catchall, remained unsettled because of proposed C2-16 administrative policy language. Corbet said the C2-16 provision had drawn "a healthy debate" at the council meeting and was under review by labor attorney Chris Hopson and human resources. She said the provision could stay as drafted, be modified, be deleted or be elevated to a separate ballot item. Todd Lampert said the commission should reopen the issue later, after legal review.

The Board of Finance eligibility requirement also returned to the agenda. The current charter requires Board of Finance members to be electors and real-estate taxpayers or property taxpayers. Corbet said a prior ballot question to remove that requirement failed about 70 percent to 30 percent in 2016. Palo cited Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 7-340 and related finance-board provisions in arguing that taxpayer requirements are permitted or required in some towns. Commission counsel Nicholas R. Bamonte said a state statute does not eliminate a federal constitutional concern, and he cited U.S. Supreme Court precedent involving a property-ownership condition for public service. Turner v. Fouché, decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1970, struck down a Georgia freeholder requirement for school-board membership. Bamonte said his firm found no Connecticut case directly resolving New Canaan's situation.

The meeting ended with term limits, Board of Finance property-owner eligibility and C2-16 administrative language set for further discussion. Corbet scheduled the next substantive discussion for June 30 and said July 13 remained the target for sending the final report to the Town Council before its expected July 15 vote.



## P&Z

### From Page 1

amendment temporarily addresses an apparent gap in state law governing parking requirements for exactly 16-unit developments. Because current state legislation addresses projects with fewer than 16 units and more than 16 units but not developments containing precisely 16 units, the proposed local amendment would prohibit such applications until the state’s clarification of the issue goes into effect in October.

Fish also described a new height exception intended to accommodate properties with significant grade changes. The amendment allows additional building height under limited circumstances without altering bulk requirements or the perceived height of structures from the street. Town Planner Sarah Carey said the regulation could benefit redevelopment opportunities along portions of Pine Street, sections of Elm Street near the railroad tracks, and several other sloping commercial sites downtown.

No members of the public spoke during the hearing, and commissioners closed the hearing after confirming there were no requests for substantive changes.

The commission then proceeded through a series of separate votes, approving amendments to zoning definitions, commercial zone regulations, parking and loading standards, and affordable housing regulations. Commissioners also approved creation of Section 5.11, establishing the new

Conservation and Traffic Mitigation District. The district was described as being consistent with powers granted to municipalities under Public Act 25-1 and aligned with goals in the town’s 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development.

In addition to the text amendments, the commission unanimously adopted amendments to the downtown zoning map and formally established the boundaries of the first Conservation and Traffic Mitigation District. Commissioners cited the need to balance economic development with preservation of New Canaan’s small-town character.

Chairman Daniel Radman noted that the regulations represented the culmination of an extensive review process. During deliberations, commissioners referenced roughly 16 months of work by the zoning update subcommittee and staff to modernize regulations, reduce ambiguities and align local zoning with recommendations contained in the town’s recently adopted Plan of Conservation and Development.

Following the approvals, commissioners turned their attention to the next phase of the zoning update effort. Carey and BFJ Planning advised that funding remains available under the town’s consulting contract, and discussions centered on future reviews of residential zoning districts, apartment and multifamily regulations, signage standards, building coverage requirements and other residential development issues. Commissioners are expected to resume those discussions later this summer or in early fall.

All zoning amendments and map changes approved June 23 are scheduled to take effect July 1.

# Congratulations!



The Harvey School wrote to let us know that New Canaan resident Lucy, grade 12, made the spring term’s head’s list with a GPA between 3.7 and 3.99. Great job Lucy!

## VALLES POOL STORY

### From Page 1

Valles Pool, a coalition of roughly 100 members dedicated to preserving the facility. The group launched a petition that gathered 1,785 signatures before Wednesday’s vote and organized a peaceful protest that was later canceled after the board’s decision.

Among those advocating for the pool was David Kirby, a master swimmer, longtime YMCA member, former board member, and retired civil engineer.

“The outcry from the community shows how deeply people value this pool and how troubled they are that a potential closure or repurposing advanced without meaningful communication,” Kirby said. “Our goal is for the YMCA Board to preserve the Valles Pool, share the facts openly, and engage the community honestly before taking any action that would permanently diminish aquatics in New Canaan.”

Kirby, who served on the board when the Valles Pool was designed and constructed, said he has watched the facility become a cornerstone of New Canaan’s aquatic community.

“If we lose Valles Pool, it will never be replaced,” Kirby emphasized. “It is irreplaceable.”

For many residents, concerns extended beyond the future of the pool itself. Community members questioned why an amenity designed to serve the public could face significant changes without broader public discussion.

Residents voiced their concerns through letters to the YMCA, petition signatures, and signs displayed throughout town. Some took it a step further, writing letters to the editor of the New Canaan Sentinel. The board heard their concerns and took them into account as they reviewed options that included repairing, demolishing, or repurposing the building.

Kristina Barrett, the YMCA’s vice president of financial development, marketing and strategic initiatives, shared the outcome of the Wednesday vote with the New Canaan Sentinel.

“The Board voted unanimously to address the roof work needed to preserve and maintain the Valles Pool,” Barrett announced.

Barrett also provided a statement from YMCA CEO Margaret Riley.

“The central theme of these discussions—and what we should carry forward together—was how meaningful the YMCA community and experience are for our town,” Riley explained.

“It’s been encouraging to hear how many feel passionate that it’s a worthwhile investment for our community.”

Cost remains the primary challenge.

According to YMCA officials, an unreleased 2024 engineering report estimated repairs could cost between \$2.5 million and \$3.5 million. Some residents have suggested that repairing only the roof could reduce costs significantly, but without the release of engineering reports or related records, those estimates cannot be independently verified.

YMCA officials have not announced how repairs will be funded or whether a dedicated capital campaign will be launched. As a nonprofit organization, the YMCA depends on membership fees, donations, grants, and community support to maintain its facilities and programs.

The scope of the restoration project—and the timeline for completing it—will likely become key topics in the months ahead.

Following the board’s decision, Riley encouraged supporters of the pool to consider contributing to future fundraising efforts. Save the Valles Pool has now pivoted to support the restoration, and they are accepting donations on their website, [savevallespool.com](https://savevallespool.com). Donations can also be given directly through the YMCA,

[newcanaanymca.org/valles-pool-campaign](https://newcanaanymca.org/valles-pool-campaign).

The Valles Pool building has been a fixture of the New Canaan YMCA for nearly five decades. The facility was named in honor of Carol and Jean Paul Valles, longtime supporters of the organization whose contributions helped sustain YMCA programs and services. Over the years, generations of residents have learned to swim, competed on local teams, and built friendships within its walls.

New Canaan resident, Nick Pastushan, said all three of his children swam at the Y, and both he and his wife volunteered with the aquatics programs. Speaking at a Board of Education meeting the Monday before the decision, Pastushan advocated for preserving the pool. “I have watched firsthand the development of many young people and their growth and life lessons from competitive aquatics.”

For now, the pool will remain open while the YMCA develops plans for the restoration project. Board members said construction timelines will be announced once plans are finalized, with repairs expected to take between one and two years. For the swimmers, divers, and families who rallied to save it, Wednesday’s vote ensures the Valles Pool will remain part of New Canaan’s aquatic community for years to come.

## BOARD OF SELECTMAN STORY

### From Page 1

officials praised the pair for immediately responding to the emergency, while First Selectman Dionna Carlson commended their courage and professionalism.

“Thank you both for springing into action and helping someone in need without regard for your own personal safety,” Carlson said. “We are really blessed that no one was hurt.”

Board member Steve Karl noted that security footage showed the lifeguards reacting almost instantly after the vehicle entered the pool area.

The proclamations cited the lifeguards’ “exceptional courage, professionalism, and presence of mind” in helping secure the scene and protect public safety during a potentially life-threatening emergency.

### Police Requests Delayed Pending Documentation

Two New Canaan Police Department requests were postponed after board members expressed concerns about insufficient supporting documentation.

A request to spend \$12,368 on replacement portable radios, batteries, chargers and microphones was tabled after board members noted that materials did not include quantities, equipment details or supporting quotes.

Similarly, a proposal to encumber \$52,500 toward the purchase of a Ford Transit van for the department’s Special Response Team was delayed pending additional information. Police

officials said the vehicle would replace a 2002 ambulance currently used to transport tactical equipment and personnel.

Carlson emphasized that purchases exceeding the board’s approval threshold require complete supporting documentation, including pricing details and procurement information. Finance officials also clarified that the funds would not be lost if approval was delayed because capital and bonded funds roll over into future fiscal years.

### Fire Department Purchase Orders Approved

The board unanimously approved a series of FY27 blanket purchase orders for the New Canaan Fire Department, including contracts for apparatus repairs, dispatch services, equipment purchases, physical examinations, software services and uniforms. The approved amounts totaled more than \$340,000, including \$81,250 for Fairfield Regional Dispatch services and \$73,000 for new hydraulic extrication equipment.

Fire officials said the new battery-powered rescue tools will replace nearly 20-year-old cutters and spreaders that are no longer effective on modern vehicle construction materials.

Board members also thanked firefighters for their response during the Steve Benko Pool incident.

### Highway and DPW Contracts Advance

The Board approved FY27 blanket purchase orders for the Highway Department, including expenditures for auto parts, asphalt, road signs, drainage supplies, fleet fuel and cemetery maintenance.

Highway officials noted that the department has increasingly taken on smaller paving projects

in-house following the closure of a longtime contractor, allowing town crews to complete work directly rather than outsourcing it.

The Department of Public Works also received approval for FY27 engineering and administration contracts covering excavation, sidewalk repairs, surveying, engineering consulting and fleet-management technology.

In addition, the board approved a \$1,385 increase to an existing WeatherCentry DTN contract used by emergency services, parks, highway and wastewater departments for weather forecasting and storm support.

### Transfer Station Waste Contract Awarded

The board unanimously approved a new three-year contract with All American Waste for municipal solid waste hauling and disposal services from the New Canaan Transfer Station.

The agreement calls for rates of \$110 per ton in FY27, \$112 per ton in FY28 and \$114 per ton in FY29. Town officials noted that the first-year rate represents a slight decrease from the current \$111-per-ton cost. The total value of the three-year contract is approximately \$2.18 million.

DPW officials reported that transfer station tonnage has declined in recent years, leading the town to reduce projected annual volumes from 7,000 to 6,500 tons.

### South Avenue Project Underway

Public Works Director Tiger Mann provided an update on the South Avenue infrastructure project, which began June 22.

The section of South Avenue between Douglas Road and Farm Road will be closed weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the end of August while water-main work is completed.

Mann said local residents, school buses and emergency vehicles will continue to have access through the construction zone.

Officials said the project remains on schedule despite Aquarion Water Company’s pending acquisition by the Regional Water Authority.

Mann also reported ongoing paving, sidewalk and road-maintenance projects throughout town and said work continues on the long-awaited Irwin Park elevator installation, which is still expected to be operational by the end of the summer, pending inspections.

### School Reimbursement Requests Tabled

The board tabled requests involving health, wellness and transportation reimbursements for St. Luke’s School and New Canaan Country School after questioning enrollment figures used to calculate payments.

Discussion centered on state enrollment data indicating that 534 New Canaan residents attend St. Luke’s School. Carlson expressed skepticism about the figure and directed staff to obtain enrollment information directly from the schools and conduct a five-year review of prior reimbursement calculations.

### Looking Ahead

Carlson reminded residents about Saturday’s New Canaan 250th anniversary parade, scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. Rain-date information will be posted on the town website if needed. Board members also noted that fireworks passes remain available and that June 26 is the deadline for signatures related to the ongoing leaf-blower ordinance petition effort.

## MEDAL OF HONOR

### From Page 1

Reconnaissance Battalion, in Vietnam. His Medal of Honor citation says he acted “at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty” after being “Tasked to locate a North Vietnamese regimental base camp southwest of Phu Loc.”

The citation says Capers led a nine-man patrol through enemy territory,

encountered enemy soldiers on the first two days and called for fire on an enemy base camp to prevent an attack on Company M, 3d Battalion, 26th Marines. On the final day, after sustaining fragmentation and gunshot wounds, he “continued to coordinate supporting fires and his team’s movement to a helicopter extraction site” and remained in command until “all of his Marines were evacuated.”

Ripley was cited for actions on April 2, 1972, while serving as a captain and senior Marine adviser to the Third Vietnamese

Marine Corps Infantry Battalion in Vietnam. His citation says a mechanized North Vietnamese force was moving south along Route 1 and that “the enemy advance could not be halted unless the bridge over the river at Dong Ha was destroyed.”

Ripley located “500 pounds of explosives,” moved hand over hand along the bridge’s steel beams to position the charges and completed the mission while “exposed to continual enemy fire.” The citation says he detonated the charges and destroyed the bridge, “thus thwarting the

enemy’s assault.”

His Navy Cross for the April 2, 1972, action was upgraded to the Medal of Honor this year.

Dockery was cited for actions on Oct. 2, 2012, while serving as a second lieutenant and platoon leader with 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan. His citation says his platoon and associated Afghan forces “were ambushed by an estimated 150 Taliban fighters.”

## RED CROSS COLUMN

### From Page 1

someone whose sole responsibility is to keep a close eye and constant attention on everyone in and around the water. Make sure to have adults take turns so that nobody loses focus. More than 60% of drowning rescues are made by the people nearby, before help arrives. Teach your kids to ask permission before entering the water so adults can confirm that a designated water watcher is in place alongside any lifeguards.

As the weather gets hot, it is also important to be mindful of extreme heat. Stay hydrated, limit time outdoors during the hottest parts of the day and check in

on older neighbors or those without air conditioning. Remember that pets can overheat too. Never leave them alone in the car, even with the windows cracked open, and be sure they have plenty of fresh water to drink.

Summer is also a time when another, less visible challenge emerges. As schedules shift and many people are away, we typically see fewer blood donation appointments being made, at the very time injuries from travel, sports, and outdoor activities increase. This uptick in traumatic injuries during summer is on top of all the patients who continue to rely on blood for surgeries, cancer treatments, and other medical procedures. The need for blood is constant and does not take a summer break.

Despite donating blood for much of

my life, this need has taken on a more personal meaning for me. As some in our community may know, I was recently diagnosed with cancer. I’m grateful to share that I have responded well to chemotherapy so far, and my care team is encouraged by my progress.

I have been fortunate not to need platelet transfusions, but many others fighting cancer are not as lucky. Chemotherapy can significantly lower platelet counts, and when that happens, patients are at risk of serious or even life-threatening bleeding. Platelets — the tiny cells in our blood that help it clot — have a shelf life of just five days, and on average are transfused within just three days of donation. Every 15 seconds, someone in the United States needs platelets, making regular donations essential.

I still remember my first chemotherapy appointment, when I saw a bag of blood being carried past me that bore the American Red Cross logo, knowing that this bag carried hope and comfort to someone who was as scared as I was in that moment. As I look ahead to the next phase of my treatment, which will include surgeries later this year, I am comforted by the knowledge that my hospital will have blood available in case there are complications during my procedures. But this blood does not magically appear on the shelves by itself. It cannot be manufactured. It can only come from the generosity of individual people who roll up their sleeves to donate.

There is a saying that small acts of kindness create ripple effects far beyond what we can see. Donating blood is

one of those acts. It is simple, it is safe, and it has the potential to save lives — perhaps even the life of someone in our own community. The Jill and John Coyle Blood Donor Center in Greenwich makes it especially easy to do so, with evening and weekend hours that can fit even the busiest summer schedules.

As we embrace all that this summer season has to offer, I encourage each of us to think about how we care for one another: by staying safe, being prepared, and, if you are able, giving blood. These are the quiet but meaningful ways we strengthen the fabric of our community.

*Stephanie has worked and volunteered in the nonprofit sector for over twenty years. Her current role as CEO of the MNYN chapter of the American Red Cross began in March 2020.*



# New Canaan’s 250 Parade Carries the Town’s Living Memory Down South Avenue

On Saturday morning, New Canaan will do something towns do when they want to remember who they are: it will go outside together.

The America250 New Canaan Parade is scheduled to step off at 9:30 a.m. from the Lumberyard Lot, travel from Elm Street to South Avenue, and end at Saxe Middle School. If rain interferes, the town has set Sunday, June 28, at 1 p.m. as the rain date. There will be floats and bicycles dressed for the occasion, colonial-attired local groups, vintage cars, Shriner cars, marching bands, and fife and drum corps. But near the front, before the music and motion settle into parade rhythm, will be the honored guests: neighbors whose long lives and long service have become part of New Canaan’s own biography.

That is the quiet genius of a parade like this. The nation may be marking 250 years since 1776, and New Canaan is marking 225 years since its incorporation in 1801. Those are large numbers, best suited for plaques and speeches. A town understands history differently. It understands it

through the people who kept showing up.

Frank Gallo, New Canaan’s oldest living veteran at 100 years old, served with the 78th Infantry Division during World War II. He will be honored not as a symbol from a distant century, but as a living neighbor whose service is still close enough to wave to.

Janet Karl, who will turn 100 this year, carries another kind of town memory. Her Bouton and Wood family roots reach back to the 1800s, and many ancestors are buried in Canoe Hill Cemetery behind the home where her father was born, at 8 Ferris Hill Road. In 1954 she married Dick Karl, joining the Karl family, whose auto dealerships have stood for three generations on Elm Street, once known as Railroad Avenue. In one life, there is a map of New Canaan: cemetery, farmhouse, railroad road, Main Street errands, generations of engines turning over.

Keith Simpson’s map is greener. A landscape architect, he helped shape Waveny into the park residents know today. He also assisted with the Forest Street revitalization, the new

bridge in Mead Park near the Veterans Walk, the restoration of Bristow Bird Sanctuary, and other civic projects across decades. He was invited to ride in an antique car with his wife, Debera, and answered with gratitude: “Thank you again for your very kind invitation for me and Debera to travel in Saturday’s parade in an antique car - we really feel most honored and we appreciate it.”

Then the plot took a very New Canaan turn: church, history, costume, good humor.

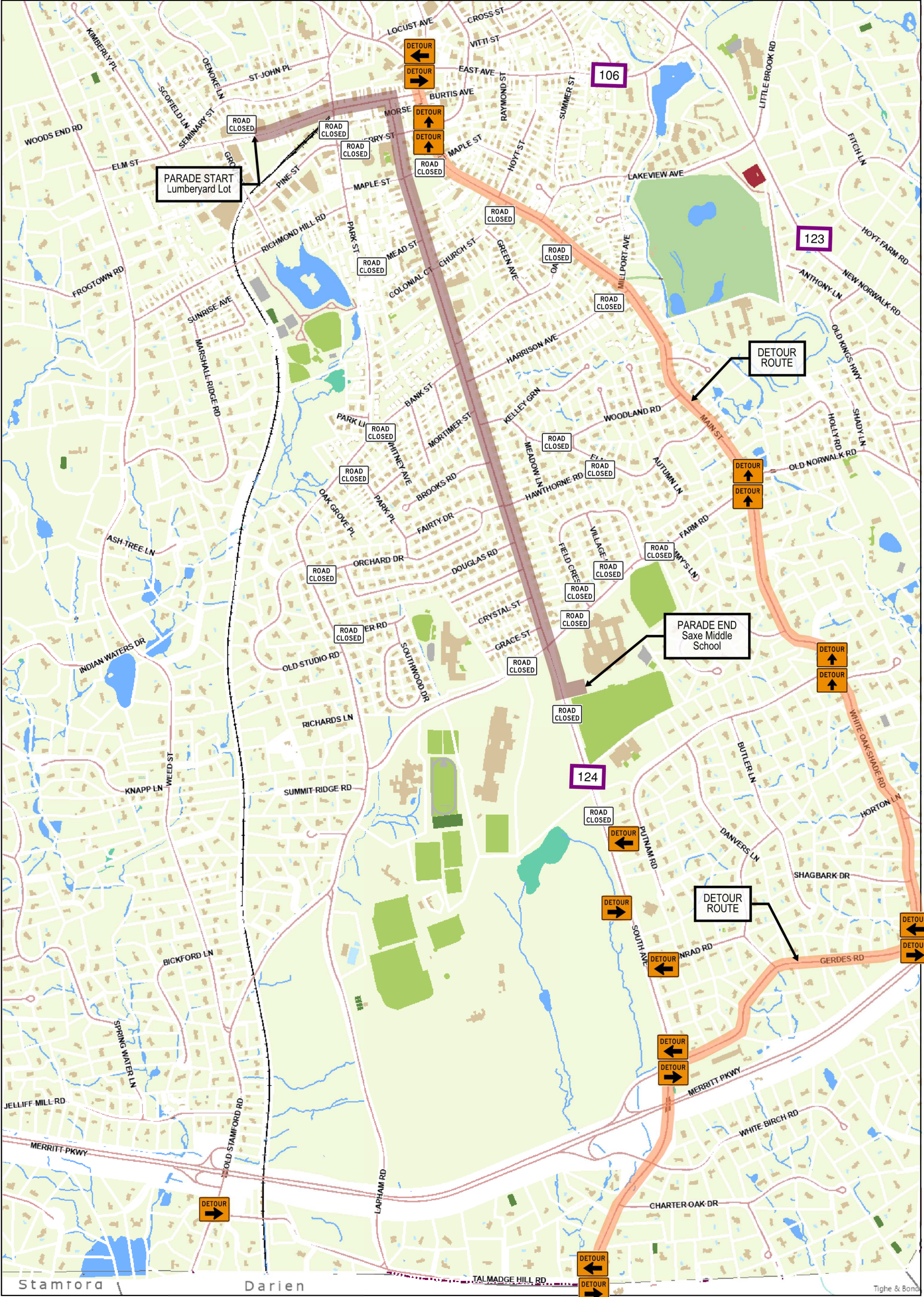
Simpson wrote that the First Presbyterian Church had asked him to ride on its float dressed as the Rev. John Witherspoon, the Presbyterian minister, Princeton president, and only minister to sign the Declaration of Independence. He expects to be seated at a desk, in clerical costume, with quill, wig, and a sense of duty. “If it is OK with you, I would like to accept this special invitation,” he wrote, adding that Debera would walk with the church community. For anyone scanning the parade for the familiar landscape architect, Simpson offered a clue: “expect to find me beneath flowing white locks (for a change).”

He closed with the benediction every parade committee needs: “I will be marshaling my very temporary divinal powers to pray for good weather for us all.”

Jim Bach, unable to ride in the parade, will be honored in absentia as “Mr. New Canaan.” A Korean War veteran, Bach served for years as guest historian at the historical society, bringing local history alive for multiple generations. His absence will still have a presence, the way a good teacher’s voice stays in a room after the lesson ends.

Parade co-chairs Tracey Karl and Lisa Melland put the matter plainly: “We thank them for providing a lifetime of service to New Canaan.”

On Saturday, that lifetime will move slowly down the street, past sidewalks filled with neighbors. It will be carried in vintage cars, in a church float, in old family names, restored parks, war memories, cemetery stones, and the ordinary civic miracle of people making a place, then letting the place make them.



250th Parade Route



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A News Desert?

New Canaan does not lack local news. It has a community that reads, follows public affairs and takes local government seriously. At a recent Town Council meeting, as members discussed the Charter Revision Commission, the town was described by two elected representatives as having limited media coverage and, in one version, as a news desert. The concern behind the comment is understandable: residents should know what their government is doing. The characterization is not. It is inaccurate, and it dismisses important and intentional work that has been done in public and in print.

*What is not fair is to choose not to read the coverage and then speak as though the coverage does not exist.*

The *New Canaan Sentinel* has covered the Charter Revision Commission extensively. It has reported on public hearings, commission meetings, the debate over appointed and elected boards, Planning and Zoning, the Board of Finance, term limits, confirmation authority, ethics, public property, and charter procedure. It has published news coverage, analysis, letters, and editorials. It has treated charter revision not as municipal housekeeping, but as the governing architecture of the town – or, as Town Council Chairman Michael Mauro put it, New Canaan’s “constitutional convention.”

A charter is the framework that defines how power moves through local government, how boards are formed, how voters participate and how officials are held accountable. If the charter process is New Canaan’s constitutional convention, then the public record surrounding it is important. So is the work of reporting that record.

The point is broader than the *Sentinel*. First Selectman Dionna Carlson communicates with the public on a regular basis. The town posts meeting agendas, minutes, recordings, and documents. Residents speak at meetings. Commissioners deliberate in public. The public record is there for anyone willing to follow it. New Canaan does not suffer from an absence of information. It benefits from an abundance of it.

A newspaper can attend meetings, read documents, explain process, publish competing views, and preserve the record. It can return to a complicated topic long after casual attention has moved elsewhere. It can give residents a reliable place to begin. What it cannot do is prevent a public official from overlooking coverage that already exists.

Elected town officials are not passive consumers of civic information. They are public officials. Keeping up with what has been reported, what documents are available, and what arguments residents have already encountered is part of their job.

In New Canaan, the *Sentinel* holds a weekly coffee where town leaders and residents gather to discuss local news. It is very well attended; often attended by town leaders and administrators, state representatives, state senators and, even with appearances by the town’s U.S. congressman. The gathering is community information in its most direct form. What is discussed is the business of town life: the news, the community, mental health, baseball fields, potholes, affordable housing and, yes, the CRC.

New Canaan has some of the strongest local news coverage of any town in Connecticut. Its residents are well informed, engaged, and accustomed to following the details of local government. Many read the *Sentinel*, write letters, attend meetings, and participate in the public conversation. The *Sentinel* is a part of that civic culture.

Elected officials may choose not to show up. They may choose to disagree with a story. They may object to a headline. They may send a correction, write a letter, submit an op-ed, or argue that the *Sentinel* has overemphasized one issue and underemphasized another. They may even reach out to the publisher directly and ask for specific coverage of a topic.

That is fair. That is civic exchange. What is not fair is to suggest that coverage does not exist when it plainly does.

That is wrong as a matter of fact. It is also insulting to the reporters, editors, letter writers, and residents who have taken this process seriously.

Real news deserts exist in America. In those places, town boards operate with little scrutiny, budgets pass with little explanation, zoning decisions receive little sustained coverage and citizens often learn what happened only after consequences arrive. That is a serious democratic problem.

That is not New Canaan.

The *Sentinel* will continue covering charter revision, you can read about it extensively in this issue in fact. New Canaan is not a news desert. It is a town with available information, public records, regular communication, engaged residents, and a local newspaper doing its work. The issue is not whether the town has news. The issue is whether public leaders will describe that reality accurately.



“Tragic— a complete news desert.”

Thank You

Dear Editor,

On Thursday, June 4, Staying Put in New Canaan hosted its annual Summer Soirée at Serafresca at the IC, bringing together members, volunteers, sponsors, and friends for an evening of celebration and community. The Summer Soirée is Staying Put’s signature fundraising event, helping to support our mission of enabling older adults to live confidently and independently in their own homes while remaining active and connected in the community.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of this year’s event. Thank you to Serafresca at the IC and its staff for the lovely setting and outstanding hospitality. Thank you also to our guitarist and singer Nick Depuy for his beautiful music.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our generous sponsors whose support helps make Staying Put’s transportation services, volunteer assistance, educational programs, and social opportunities possible.

Benefactor Sponsors

- Anderson Fund
- Cindy and Paul Bamatter
- Dr. Sherman M. Bull and Peggy Risom Bull
- Jo and Peter Ziesing

Champion Sponsors

- Betsy and Fred Afragola
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- Karp Associates Inc.
- New Canaan Pharmacy
- Walter Stewart’s Market
- Waveny LifeCare Network

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- The New Canaanite

We also thank the many local businesses and organizations that donated items and services in support of the event. Their generosity

contributed greatly to the evening’s success and reflects the remarkable spirit of giving that makes New Canaan such a special community.

Thank you to:

Blow & Glow Blow Dry Bar  
Canaan Nails  
Cherry Street Cheese & Provisions  
Cherry Street East  
Cherry Street Salon  
Ciel Eau Day Spa  
Craftbottlz  
Debonair Cleaners & Tailors  
Elm Street Books  
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Gates  
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Lombardi’s Ristorante & Bar  
Lyn Chivvis, Massage Therapist  
Mayflower Home Organizing  
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Nantucket Monogram  
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New Canaan Playhouse  
New Canaan Racquet Club  
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PennyWeights  
Portraits, Inc.  
Rosie  
Sanda’s Cleaners  
Spiga  
Summer Theatre of New Canaan  
Taylors Luggage  
The Waveny Tavern  
The White Buffalo  
The Whitney Shop  
Tony’s Deli  
Wegmans

Finally, we would like to recognize the dedicated Staying Put staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers whose hard work and commitment make our mission possible every day. Their efforts ensure that older adults in our community have access to the support, resources, and connections they need to thrive.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2026 Staying Put Summer Soirée such a memorable and fun evening.

Sincerely,  
Peter Ziesing  
President, Board of Directors  
Staying Put in New Canaan  
Gina Blum  
Executive Director  
Staying Put in New Canaan

For more information about Staying Put in New Canaan, to donate, or to get involved, please visit <https://stayingputnc.org/>



# Honored Parade Guests Announced

Letter to the Editor

We are excited to announce the Honored Guests for the New Canaan 250 Parade that takes place on Saturday, June 27. Step-off is at 9:30 am from the Lumberyard Lot with the final destination being Saxe Middle School. The rain date is Sunday, June 28 at 1 pm. Further information regarding the parade and other NC250 events is provided on the town website including if the parade rain date is to be used. Honored Guests will ride in vintage cars at the beginning of the parade. We thank them for providing a lifetime of service to New Canaan.

Frank Gallo

Mr. Gallo served with the 78th Infantry Division during World War II. He is 100 years old and has the honor of being New Canaan’s oldest living veteran.

Janet Karl

Her family roots go back to the 1800’s and many ancestors from her Bouton and Wood family lines are buried at the back of the home in which her father was born, 8

Ferris Hill Road, in the Canoe Hill Cemetery. She married her husband Dick in 1954, marrying into the Karl family that for three generations has owned auto dealerships on Elm Street, formerly Railroad Avenue. Janet Karl will turn 100 years old this year.

Keith Simpson

As a landscape architect, Mr. Simpson helped to make Waveny the beautiful park that it is today. He assisted with the Forest Street revitalization, the new bridge in Mead Park near the Veterans Walk, helped to restore the Bristow Bird Sanctuary and contributed through many local civic projects across decades.

Jim Bach (In absentia)

Mr. Bach is unable to ride in the parade, but we honor him as “Mr. New Canaan”. Mr. Bach is a Korean War veteran and, for many years, served as guest historian at the historical society, bringing New Canaan’s history alive to multiple generations.

*From New Canaan 250 Parade Co-Chairs Tracey Karl and Lisa Melland*

# A Lesson in Localism from Dunning Field

By CAROL PLATT LIEBAU

It was the kind of sunny, beautiful day when New Canaan truly earns its moniker “The Next Station to Heaven.”

By early Tuesday morning last week, our town was humming with its customary activity. But there was an added sense of anticipation as lines of cars headed toward the high school and family members streamed into the bleachers at Dunning Field. We had come to celebrate the Class of 2026 and to mark one of life’s great milestones: the end of high school and the transition to a new life at college.

As a graduating senior’s mother, I experienced the day through the eyes of a parent. I found myself remembering the little boy who once needed help zipping his jacket and marveling that he was now collecting a diploma, university bound. The years seemed to have had a way of moving both slowly and all at once.

But as the ceremony unfolded, I was struck by something else, as well: the sheer excellence of what our community has created together.

Again and again, what shone through was that New Canaan’s students are

not merely educated; they are known. From the good-natured references to Principal Egan’s enforcement of the “Off and Away” phone policy to the remarks offered by Superintendent Luizzi and class administrator Kristi Carriero, it was evident that the adults entrusted with these students’ education care deeply about them as individuals.

That theme continued throughout the morning. Faculty member Dr. Jonathan Schwartz delivered a graduation address that was thoughtful, intellectually serious, relevant to the graduates, and refreshingly free of the political overtones that too often intrude on occasions meant to celebrate young people and their accomplishments.

What impressed me most was the atmosphere itself. There was warmth. There was respect. There was an obvious affection between students and the adults who had guided them through their school years. In an era when too many institutions feel distant and impersonal, it was reassuring to witness a community where relationships still matter.

The graduates reflected the results. We heard from articulate student

speakers. We listened to talented musicians and singers. And we watched young men and women who seemed prepared not just for academic success, but for lives of purpose and contribution.

At Yankee Institute, we spend our time focused on how public policy can help make Connecticut more affordable, more livable, and more workable. Often, that means identifying problems that need fixing. But sitting in those bleachers last week was a reminder that under the right conditions, public institutions can sometimes work well.

New Canaan’s schools are not successful by accident. They reflect the commitment, character, expectations, and priorities of the community they serve. Parents, teachers, administrators, elected officials, and taxpayers all have a stake in the outcome. Decisions are made by people who know the community and are directly accountable to it.

That reality offers a broader lesson. Increasingly, policymakers in Hartford seek to move authority away from local communities and toward centralized agencies and mandates. But the success celebrated at Dunning Field was, in many

ways, a testament to the enduring value of localism. Communities often function best when those closest to the people affected by decisions retain meaningful authority over them.

None of this suggests that every Connecticut school district is identical to New Canaan, or that every challenge facing education across our state has been solved. That’s far from true. Rather, it’s simply recognizing an important truth: when families, educators, and communities are empowered to work together, extraordinary things can happen.

As this year’s graduates begin the next chapter of their lives, they carry with them the benefits of a community that invested in them, challenged them, and believed in them. That is something worth celebrating. And it is something worth preserving.

**Congratulations, Class of 2026.**

*Carol Platt Liebau is President of Yankee Institute, a Connecticut based public policy organization, advancing practical solutions to keep our state affordable, livable, and workable. Learn more at YankeeInstitute.org.*

# A Neighbor’s Experience on Weed Street

Hello Save Weed St,

I’ve been quiet for the past few weeks—mostly to protect my sanity, but also to let developments unfold. It’s been a tough time on Weed and Elm, and that’s saying quite a lot given what has evolved here over the past several years. A lot of blame has circulated: blame Hartford, blame voters, blame Town, blame the developer, and now, unbelievably, blame the neighbors.

While I never expected a missing-person billboard to be erected in our honor, I wasn’t surprised by the developer’s tactics. We have endured this behavior for years. Arnold Karp and Paul Stone have distressed us and our neighbors by using an easement as a pretext to lurk on our properties. Arnold said he was going to build a “F###ing skyscraper” in our backyard. He attempted to block our children from getting on the school bus, requiring a police escort, on the first day of school. He brought an off-duty police officer (he was paying “extra duty”) in full uniform to the property to intimidate us. He left 751 in shambles, with machinery and trailers, and let his grass grow to the point of blight. Town officials were aware of his behavior and of our having called the police multiple times. Shockingly, the only person ever charged was one of us (for disorderly conduct in a confrontation with Arnold when he and his posse were again lurking). The judge threw it out. The Town said the easement was a private matter and that their hands were tied.

Everyone has seen the destruction of our privacy caused by the unnecessary butchering of trees. It is a cruel way to further torment families, including our young children, who watched in dismay. The youngest was sobbing as her backyard was destroyed. The only relief is that now everyone recognizes what we have been putting up with for years. We had to call and email the Town several times about our safety concerns regarding a wide-open lot at 751 filled with heavy machinery, tools, ruins, and a dilapidated pool. Town finally replied, forwarding a message from Karp stating that a fence would eventually go up. “All is good with us,” said the Town (Chief Building Official).

So, what surprised me was P&Z Chair Dan Radman’s comments during P&Z’s vote to approve the 830g project at 751 Weed. He said in part, “As I have made clear, there have been ongoing discussions with the applicant and the interveners...that have been going on for a number of months with potential alternatives and compromises discussed and reviewed. But....they did not come to an agreement as to what a potential alternative can be. And because of that, we are forced to approve the 102.” Further stating, “we’ve all endured years of agony.”

Dan’s comments are false and deeply misleading. He’s placing the burden of this project’s approval solely on the neighbors’ shoulders. I hoped town leadership would explain the circumstances surrounding this so-called “negotiation process” and answer the questions many residents have raised. Since they have not, I will.

Negotiations regarding 751 Weed Street were conducted directly among Arnold Karp, Steve Karl, and Scott Hobbs long before neighbors became involved. Neighbors were neither invited to help shape a solution nor presented with “alternatives.” We were invited as a so-called courtesy after discussions were already underway and were presented with 62 luxury condos or 102-8-30 g.

Specifically, this is what took place:

In late November 2025, First Selectwoman Dionna Carlson invited neighbors to gather with Scott Hobbs and Steve Karl to discuss potential alternative plans for 751 Weed and explained that the town was working to reduce the impact of the existing application. Dionna said Scott and Steve initially wanted to go straight to P&Z, but she insisted neighbors deserved to be part of the conversation. Before the meeting, neighbors had three questions: Why are Scott Hobbs and Steve Karl attending? Answer: They are the ones having direct conversations with Karp. Why isn’t Amy Murphy Carroll attending? Answer: Including Amy would make it an official meeting requiring public notice and records. This was intended to be an informal, off-the-record discussion. Lastly, what’s the point of this? Answer: It’s a courtesy to the neighbors. The neighbors agreed and met in person at Lapham Center on December 1st.

We learned that Steve Karl and Scott Hobbs had been speaking with Arnold to achieve a better outcome for Weed and Elm. Arnold offered 62 luxury condos with no affordable units; a fee would be paid to the Town for affordable housing. We learned the footprint was roughly the same, but no other details were provided. Neighbors expressed frustration and asked about the lumberyard or other opportunities to trade. Dionna, Steve, and Scott said they had suggested alternatives, such as townhomes, to Karp, but he declined. We were told the lumberyard was considered too valuable to trade. At this point, the easement case had not concluded. There was little else to discuss. The meeting ended.

On January 8, the group met again at Lapham Center. Neighbors expected more details but were presented with the same choice: 62 luxury condos or 102 rentals. We were told Arnold wouldn’t produce drawings until neighbors agreed to pivot to 62. He didn’t want to incur the expense. Dionna, Steve, and Scott acknowledged residents’ frustration but said they had no negotiating power. We were encouraged to consider the benefits of luxury condos versus rentals that included affordable units and were invited to provide feedback on minor site elements, such as landscaping.

The group reconvened on March 2. By then, the easement case had been lost, and neighborhood participation was waning. Residents were shown one preliminary visual for the first time, but key details—including height, setbacks, and square footage—were missing. A long discussion was held about the importance of preserving the trees lining the property.

March 19th was the last meeting attended by the First Selectwoman, Steve Karl, and the Town lawyers. We were invited to have legal representation but declined. When asked, we were told that nothing discussed in this meeting could be obtained through FOIA. We learned our intervenor status was still active, a fact the Town had not initially recognized, and of which we were unaware. The judge remanded the case to P&Z to finalize minor details, keeping our status intact. Our signatures would be required for any settlement to be approved. Still no additional details or descriptions of the building, but time was running out for us to decide. We were told Tim Hollister (Arnold’s attorney) and Judge O’Hanlan, who ruled on the appeal, were pressuring P&Z to approve the 8-30g plan.

The choice was between 62 luxury units and 102 rental units. Dan Radman’s earlier mention of

‘potential alternatives and compromises discussed and reviewed’ implied options and compromises, but there were none. Neighbors were told it was a take-it-or-leave-it scenario. We were told that 102 units would burden the community and neighborhood, Irwin Park, etc., Sixty-two luxury condos would attract ‘snowbirds’—people able to afford \$2 to \$3 million condos-a better fit. All intervenors would have to agree, or the 102-unit plan would move forward. Nothing else could be done.

One intervenor worked with Arnold to obtain drawings of the 62-unit condo project. The building’s height and size were almost unchanged. Parking was improved but not fully underground, contrary to the developer’s claim. The building was four stories, not three and a half. No wonder he didn’t want to share the drawings. He stood to gain a windfall.

On April 6, 2026 Trevor Bradley sent a letter to the town on behalf of us stating,

“ We understand the appeal of this settlement to the Town and to the Developer. We are not naïve about what is happening here. For the Town, the settlement means avoiding affordable housing units in a neighborhood where it plainly does not want them, while simultaneously gaining transferable affordable housing credits and payments in lieu of affordable units to replenish an affordable housing fund that, as the public record reflects, currently contains zero dollars. The Town wants as many units as possible in this settlement to maximize its payment into that fund.

For the Developer, the settlement is an even better deal. The Developer trades a 102-unit rental apartment building—with 30 percent of units deed-restricted as affordable for 40 years—for 62 high-margin luxury condominiums for sale at market rate. This is plainly a far more lucrative outcome. The Owner eliminates the ongoing burdens and costs of managing rental units and affordable housing compliance, and instead realizes immediate, substantial profit from the sale of luxury condominiums in one of the most affluent markets in the country. As has been well documented, the density associated with rezoning this property creates extraordinary value for the Developer. We note that the developer has already demonstrated, through the redevelopment of the Merritt Apartments, precisely what happens when affordable housing obligations are shed: the community lost 38 lower-priced housing units and gained approximately 100 market-rate units—hardly effective public affordable housing policy.

And what do the Abutting Property Owners receive? Absolutely nothing. We face the same construction disruption. We face the same massive building looming over our single-family homes. We face the same traffic, noise, and light impacts at the intersection of Weed and Elm Streets—an intersection that even the Town’s own peer reviewers acknowledged is already challenging. We endure the same excavation of our private easement areas, the same destruction of mature trees and landscaping, and the same fundamental alteration of the quiet residential character of our neighborhood. The only difference is that instead of a building that at least provides housing for families of modest means—the stated public policy purpose of 8-30g—we get a luxury condominium building that enriches a private developer. This is not a settlement. This is capitulation by the Town, dressed up as compromise.”

As you know, the intervenors did not reach the

unanimous decision required to move forward with the 62 units.

Arnold Karp doxxed the dissenters and launched a public and private campaign of what we believe constitutes bullying, harassment, and intimidation. As such, a memo was sent to the FBI, the Attorney General, and the U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut, calling for an investigation into Arnold Karp’s conduct. Town and Chief of Police were CC’d, but never acknowledged. Why? Apparently, it went to spam. Arnold Karp claimed that dissenters were acting out of personal gain and attempting to rob New Canaan of a better alternative.

Here’s the truth: We were willing to compromise and said so to all parties—two stories, fewer units. Did we demand that Karp buy our property? No. (Although he did ask us for a number. He put up the billboard before we replied.) We asked the Town to consider buying our lane to work and create a more palatable development. After all, the Town is seeking space for affordable housing. We offered an unprecedented opportunity to purchase more than 4 acres in town and to limit the impact of 751. The answer was no—they didn’t even ask our price.

So let us tell you about agony. Agony is moving to the suburbs, buying a house, and learning that a developer next door plans to build outside the single-family zone restriction.

Agony is watching the moratorium lapse and learning that Arnold Karp sat on the Board of the New Canaan Housing Authority, a gross conflict of interest. Strange how those three 8-30g proposals were ready so fast.

Agony is spending tens of thousands of dollars on lawyers and experts to protect your homes and neighborhood, only to be labeled as the fall guy.

Agony is years of silence from Town officials, ignoring pleas for help and turning a blind eye to Arnold Karp’s alleged harassment; hanging its citizens out to dry.

The 8-30g statute is a terrible piece of legislation that enables predatory developers like Arnold Karp to operate, but it sure seems he has had some help along the way.

Local control also requires local leadership and accountability. For years, Arnold Karp has been given the keys to this town, in ways both big and small. No one stood up to him. If it must be us, then so be it.

On Tuesday, June 2nd, Amy Murphy Carroll suggested planting trees from the Town’s tree budget on the rights-of-way at Weed/Elm (Ps. If there is anything left over in that budget, we must plant nearly 40 trees in our backyard. Neighbors the same. An extremely costly endeavor indeed). I found the following exchange between the Town Council and Tiger Mann confusing (at best). Dionna said she “doesn’t want to throw good money after bad” because a site plan is needed. Amy Murphy Carroll said, “Something is going to be built there.” Tiger Mann said, “Until we have a definitive plan.” Huh? There is a site plan - it was just approved. It begs the question: what is going on, and what is the future of 751 Weed?

*Liz Moore*

*Editor’s Note: We have not had the opportunity to confirm all details in this letter. It is the viewpoint of the author.*





BY THE REV. DR. SCOTT HERR

How many times have you heard someone say, “religion and politics don’t mix”?

Niccolò Machiavelli was one of the first to argue this idea in The Prince (1513). South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, however, famously countered the notion by arguing that anyone who has read the Jewish and Christian scriptures cannot ignore the fact that in almost every book of the Bible, religion and politics are inextricably mixed! Take for example, the primary event that formed the people of Israel, the Exodus. It’s the story of a rebellion by an enslaved group of people; a violent liberation orchestrated by God. Or try reading one of the prophets and see if you can avoid their critique of the politics du jour?

Even Jesus stated clearly that the weightier parts of the law were “justice, mercy and faith,” putting justice first!

Mahatma Gandhi argued those who believe religion and politics are not connected do not understand what religion is. He claimed religion provides the moral foundation for politics. The late American Baptist pastor Adrian Rogers put it this way, “You hear today so much about the ‘separation of church and state.’ The separation of church and state is not even mentioned in the Constitution, by the way. What our founding fathers did believe is there should be no state church paid for with tax money ... but not in their wildest dreams did they ever think about the separation of God and government!” We claim to be endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable Rights. We pledge allegiance to the flag, as one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. The founding fathers saw the necessity to keep state power out of the church but believed the church had a role to provide moral and ethical

# “Cousin America has run off with a Presbyterian parson!”

guidance, so the politics of the day didn’t succumb to injustice.

It shouldn’t be surprising, then, that thirteen Presbyterians signed the Declaration of Independence, whose semi-quincentennial anniversary we’re celebrating. One of them was a Presbyterian pastor, John Witherspoon. It’s been argued we wouldn’t be a free country were it not for the Presbyterians. Almost a third of the population in the colonies at the time of the revolt were of Scottish descent, and many were Presbyterian. So identified was Witherspoon with the American mind in 1776, that the English Prime Minister’s son and member of Parliament, Horace Walpole, upon hearing the news of colonial rebellion, said, “Cousin America has run off with a Presbyterian parson!” Even the British monarch, King George III, referred to our war of independence

as the “Presbyterian rebellion.”

While we have much to celebrate about our country, the lamentable truth is that almost a half million of the population of the 13 colonies were African slaves. Of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration, forty-one owned slaves. So, when we affirm Jefferson’s articulation that “all men are created equal” and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,” we must confess that he only meant white male landowners.

The Gettysburg Address better approximates the interpretation we understand today, that “all men” means all people. The signers surely did not mean to include women, Blacks, or Native Americans. The assertion that all are created equal, as beautiful as it sounds, remains aspirational. We

Presbyterians believe the rebellion should continue so we might one day include all people, including the poor, special needs, LGBTQ folk, immigrants, or whoever the “stranger” in our midst may be. I am inspired every time I say the pledge of allegiance at Rotary and Exchange Club meetings, reminded we remain a nation committed to pursue “liberty and justice for all.”

I hope you’ll come out for the parade tomorrow or the fireworks on July 4th to celebrate with our neighbors the incredible document signed 250 years ago. More importantly, take time to read it and marvel at its vision. May we, as did our forefathers, in order to realize this Declaration of Independence, firmly relying on the protection of divine Providence, “mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

# Worship Directory and Services

UPDATE SERVICES AND ADD SPECIAL EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR AT  
[www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/worship-calendar-updates](http://www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/worship-calendar-updates)

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
**682 South Avenue 203.966.5849**  
**[www.ComeUntoChrist.org](http://www.ComeUntoChrist.org)**  
**Sunday Service: 12 PM**

**Congregational Church**  
**23 Park Street 203.966.2651**  
**[office@godsacre.org](mailto:office@godsacre.org)**  
**[www.godsacre.org](http://www.godsacre.org)**

**Sunday Services: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.** The 10:00 am service is also live streamed and recorded, the video replay will be available throughout the week. Church School is available on Sundays for children ages 3 through 7th grade each Sunday from September through mid-June.

**Recurring Events:**  
**Tuesdays at 9:30 AM:** Women's Bible Study  
**Wednesdays at 9:30 AM:** Bible Study  
**Fourth Thursday from 12-2:30 PM:** Meet at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk to serve a meal.

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
**49 Park Street 203.966.0293**  
**[christiansciencect.org/newcanaan](http://christiansciencect.org/newcanaan)**  
**Sunday 10:30 AM,** in person only. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service and is open to children and young people up to the age of 20. There is also childcare available for children too young for Sunday School.

**Wednesday Testimony Meeting:** 1st Wednesday of each month, join by zoom or by phone 646 558 8656. Reading Room Hours: Open Mondays 11-2, Call to confirm hours 203-966-0293. All are welcome to the Sunday and Wednesday services, Sunday School, and the reading room.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002**  
**[fpcnc.org](http://fpcnc.org)**  
**Sunday Service: 10am** in person or via LocalLive. All are welcome. Coffee Hour after the service is also available in person or via Zoom. Dedicated childcare is available for all children via Wee Care Nanny Agency from 8:45-11:30am in the Nursery School. Transcripts of previous sermons are also available via the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan's website.

**Recurring Events: Every Saturday 9:15am (closed) and 10:30am (open):** Alcoholics Anonymous. **Every Tuesday 8pm:** Men's A.A.  
**Third Wednesday from 6-7:30 PM:** Wednesdays at the Well are intergenerational opportunities to learn and grow in faith together. Dinner will be served and all ages are invited.

**Upcoming Events:**  
**July 19:** Peaches on the Patio. Call FPCNC for more information.  
**September 13 after 10 AM worship:** Rally Day Picnic. Join for food, fellowship, and fun.

**Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church**  
**21 Cherry Street 203.966.0020**  
**[www.starcc.com](http://www.starcc.com)**  
**Service Schedule:**  
**Saturday: Vigil for Sunday at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** The Sunday 8:30 a.m. mass is live-streamed and recorded.  
**Monday-Friday: 7:00 am and 5:30 pm**  
**Saturday: 7:00 am**

**Recurring Events:**  
**Fridays 7:30am-5:15pm:** Eucharistic Adoration (September-June)  
**Saturday 8:30am:** St. As Healing Rosary Prayer Group

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**111 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.4515**  
**[churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org](mailto:churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org)**  
**[www.stmarksnewcanaan.org](http://www.stmarksnewcanaan.org)**  
**Sunday Services: 8:00am:** Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9:00am: Outdoor Holy Eucharist Rite II; 10am: Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite II (Live Stream also available on the St. Mark's website). Coffee Hour follows the 10am service.  
Church School during the 10am service: Godly Play for children in kindergarten through second grade; Holy Moly for third and fourth grades; Meet in the Middle for fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Professional childcare is offered for children ages four and under. Families with children who are not yet ready to separate for childcare are invited to use the rocking chairs at the rear of the chapel.

**Weekday Services: Monday-Friday, 8:30am:** Morning Prayer Rite II by Zoom.  
**Wednesday at 12:05pm:** Noonday Eucharist in the chapel.

**Recurring Events:**  
**First Wednesday at 1pm:** Laundry Love volunteering opportunity to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry.  
**First & Third Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm:** Youth Group

**St. Michael's Lutheran Church**  
**5 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.3913**  
**[office@stmichaelslutheran.org](mailto:office@stmichaelslutheran.org)**  
**[www.stmichaelslutheran.org](http://www.stmichaelslutheran.org)**  
**Sunday Service at 10:00 am.** Following the service there is coffee, cookies and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.

**Trinity Church**  
**New Canaan | Darien**  
**1800 E. Putnam Ave, Old Greenwich 203.618.0808**  
**[info@trinitychurch.life](mailto:info@trinitychurch.life)**  
**[www.trinitychurch.life](http://www.trinitychurch.life)**

**Join us Sundays at 10 a.m.** at Greenwich Hyatt Regency for lively worship, thoughtful and applicable teaching, weekly Communion, and an opportunity to make friends and grow in community. Trinity Kids (infants through fifth grade) and Trinity Youth (middle and high schoolers) take place during the service, and coffee and

refreshments are served following worship. The service is also available on livestream via Youtube, Sundays at 10:00 a.m.; learn more at [www.trinitychurch.life](http://www.trinitychurch.life).

**United Methodist Church**  
**165 South Avenue 203.966.2666**  
**[frontdesk@umcofnewcanaan.org](mailto:frontdesk@umcofnewcanaan.org)**  
**[www.umcofnewcanaan.org](http://www.umcofnewcanaan.org)**  
**Join us for Sunday Worship!**  
**Sunday Service begins at 10:00 a.m.**

Come for uplifting music and a relevant, inspiring message — and stay after for coffee and conversation during Fellowship Time.  
Sunday School for ages 3 through high school. Child care is available for children from infancy through age 5.

**Recurring Events:**  
**First Sunday at 8:45 AM:** All men are invited to our monthly Men's Breakfast — a time of warm fellowship, good food, and meaningful conversation as we grow together in faith and friendship.

**Community Baptist Church**  
**174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711**  
**[cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com](mailto:cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com)**  
**[www.cbcnewcanaan.org](http://www.cbcnewcanaan.org)**  
**Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI3O\\_Syp\\_XOKDg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI3O_Syp_XOKDg)**  
**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCNewCanaan/>**  
**Sunday School at 10:00am**  
**Worship Service at 11:00am**  
**Live Facebook Broadcast 11:30 am**

**Grace Community Church**  
**9:30am Service @ Saxe Middle School**  
**468 South Avenue, New Canaan 203-966-7600**  
**[info@gracecommunity.info](mailto:info@gracecommunity.info)**  
**[www.gracecommunity.info](http://www.gracecommunity.info)**

Welcome to Grace Church, where we strive to build a church of action, founded on Biblical truth, characterized by faith, grace, community, service, authenticity, clear thinking, and cultural relevance. Grace Community Church is an exercise in knowing God, knowing truth, and building community that extends to our full lives, not just to our Sunday mornings.  
**Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30am** or via GCC's Facebook page or YouTube page. Nursery care and Sunday school/teen programming is available for babies through 12th grade. Coffee and bagels available in the lobby after the service, all are welcome.

**Upcoming Events:**  
**June 27:** Co-ed golf outing at Oak Hills Park Golf Course & dinner. Call Grace Community Church for more information.

**Talmadge Hill Community Church**  
**870 Hollow Tree Ridge Road; Darien, CT 203.966.2314**  
**[talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com](mailto:talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com)**  
**[www.talmadgehill.org](http://www.talmadgehill.org)**

Ministers: Rev. Carter Via and Rev. Cheryl Bundy **Sunday worship service at 10:00am** in person. All are welcome! We encourage everyone to stay for coffee hour after the service. Sunday School is every Sunday during the service and uses the Godly Play curriculum. Please reach out with any questions utilizing information listed above!

**Recurring Events:**  
**Thursdays at 9:30am:** Bible Study  
**First Saturday at 8am:** Men's Group  
**Second Saturday at 10am:** Women's Circle

**Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center**  
**137 Putnam Rd**  
**[info@chabadnewcanaan.org](mailto:info@chabadnewcanaan.org)**  
**[www.newcanaanjewish.org](http://www.newcanaanjewish.org)**

The Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center is dedicated to strengthening and building the New Canaan Jewish Community by offering local Jewish resources that bring more positivity, Jewish education, charitable activity, good deeds and blessing to our lovely town.

We are about Judaism, not affiliation. Regardless of your background, and however you choose to define your level of Jewish observance or identity, the Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center can add spirituality, joy, study, community and connection for you and your family. The programs of the Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center are held in various locations, all located in New Canaan.

**Temple Sinai (Reform Synagogue)**  
**458 Lakeside Drive; Stamford, CT 06903**  
**203.322.1649**  
**[www.temple sinaistamford.org](http://www.temple sinaistamford.org)**  
**Service Schedule:**  
**1st, 3rd & 5th Friday – 6pm** in person and via zoom  
**2nd & 4th – 7:30pm**

**Recurring Events:**  
**Fridays at 12 PM:** Torah Study  
**Second Saturday at 10:30 AM:** Mussar  
**First and Third Fridays at 5:30 PM:** Shabbat Service for Families with Young Children  
**First Saturday at 8 AM:** Avodat Halev Discussion Group

**Temple Sholom**  
**300 E. Putnam Ave. Greenwich, CT 06830**  
**203-869-7191**  
**[www.templesholom.com](http://www.templesholom.com)**  
**Services: In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am.**

**Recurring Events:**  
**Saturdays at 9 AM:** Shabbat Study via zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/94358392426?pwd=bFJQem9HWFcxU0EzZUM2VENEZmgyUT09#success>





# Obituaries

## BARRIE GONZALEZ



Barrie Brett Gonzalez of New Canaan, CT and Tequesta, Fla. passed away on June 20, 2026, following a courageous two-year battle with cancer. Her husband, Ralph, and sister, Suzanne, were at her side when she passed.

Barrie Stevenson Brett was born on March 5, 1950, in San Francisco, Calif., to Bruce Yeomans Brett and Jacqueline Dewey Brett. Her father was a publishing executive who later became President of the MacMillan Company, and her mother was a homemaker and later a magazine editor. Barrie lived her younger years in New Canaan. During the summers, Barrie and the Brett family traveled to the Adirondacks to the camp of her grandfather, George P. Brett. The camp, called “The Pines”, was passed down to Barrie’s parents and then to her and her siblings. The entire Brett and Gonzalez clan still visits “The Pines” every summer.

In 1964, Barrie’s family moved to Tequesta, Fla. It was in these teenage years that her love of learning and eventual passion for education would form. While attending Jupiter High School, she was a member of the Honor Society, and her activities included yearbook editor and Future Teachers of America. She graduated high school in 1968 and began her undergraduate journey at the University of Florida. In 1971, she transferred to Florida State University where she was able to pursue her passion as she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in education with a specialization in visual impairment. It was during that fall semester as a Florida State Seminole that Barrie met the love of her life, Ralph Gonzalez, at a dance in Salley Hall dorm. They spent the next 55 years dancing through life together as partners and best friends.

Following graduation from FSU in 1973, Barrie worked as a teacher in Martin County, Fla. She and Ralph

were married on June 22, 1974, and settled in Miami, where Barrie worked for the Dade County Schools for 13 years. During this time, they welcomed their first two sons, Edward (1979) and Michael (1981), and Barrie earned her first master’s degree from Florida International University. Barrie often expressed her passion for teaching was far more than a job, but a vocational calling. The enduring impact of that calling could be seen each Christmas, as for decades she received holiday cards from former pupils.

In 1987, the family relocated to New Canaan, CT, where Barrie and Ralph welcomed their third son, Philip (1988).

For the next 32 years, Barrie’s teaching career spanned several positions and locations, including time the family spent living abroad in Spain and Mexico. Upon their return to New Canaan, Barrie worked as a special education teacher for Stamford Public Schools until her retirement. As a lifelong learner and advocate for change, Barrie saw an opportunity to help more students in need so in 2006 she completed her second master’s degree in education, this time specializing in English as a second language from Fairfield University. During the program, Barrie’s academic performance and commitment to service earned her induction into Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honor Society. Barrie was an active member of the Dean’s Council of Anne’s College of Education at Florida State University. Barrie’s retirement in June 2015 after 42 years was the closing of one of the most meaningful chapters in her life – one dedicated to education, mentorship and a legacy of kindness to all those who knew her during her career.

In retirement, Barrie had two great joys: Spending time with her growing army of grandchildren and traveling the world with Ralph. Over the years they visited France, Poland, Spain, Scotland, Japan, Australia, Chile, Argentina and more. Even in the two years since her stage IV diagnosis, there were more than half a dozen trips to see grandkids and two overseas adventures with Ralph.

Barrie is survived by Ralph, her husband of 52 years; her sons, Edward (Julianne), Michael (Lia), and Philip (Alexandra); eight grandchildren: Gabriel, Elliott, Chloe, Joshua, Noah, Layla, and twins Caleb and Eliza; her siblings, Robert, Brad, and Suzanne;

and six nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Bruce, and her parents.

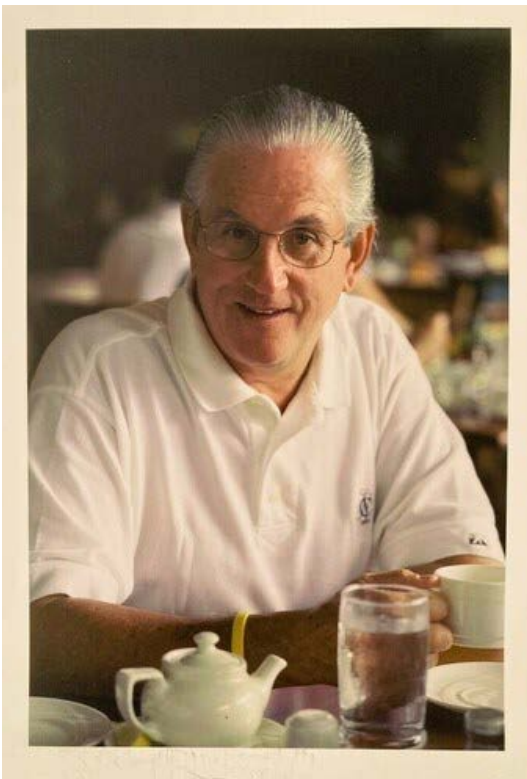
A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 2 Cherry Street in New Canaan, on Saturday, June 27, at 12:00 pm. Attendees are encouraged to wear joyful colors. Following the Mass, a Celebration of Life reception will be held at the Country Club of New Canaan at 1:30 pm.

In lieu of Flowers the family requests that donations be made to either:

The American Cancer Society, or The Florida State University College of Education

c/o The Florida State University Foundation, 325 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

## FREDERICK TUFTS



Frederick Lawrence Tufts, 79, of New Canaan, CT, and Naples, Fla., passed away peacefully on June 12, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family, following a courageous battle with cancer. Born on November 26, 1946, in Peabody, Mass., Fred was the son of the late Colonel Henry Harold Tufts, Jr. and Margaret (Lawrence) Tufts. Raised in a military family, he lived in Washington, D.C., Salzburg, Austria, Kansas, Hawaii, and several other locations throughout his childhood.

Fred was a devoted husband to Julie Scott Tufts, his beloved wife of 55 years. He was a proud father to Christopher Michael Tufts and his wife, Kelli Cumiskey, and Ryan Lawrence Tufts and his wife, Eileen Tufts. Nothing brought him greater joy than being Ampy to his grandchildren Nolan, Oliver, June, Brendan, Reid, Matthew, and Nora. He is also survived by his brother, Henry Harold Tufts III of

Brookline, Mass., and his partner, Rene Garza; his sister, Monica Tufts of White Plains, NY, and her husband, Stephen Povemba; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and lifelong friends.

Fred attended Santa Clara University, where he earned both a BA in History and an MBA. Santa Clara remained special to him throughout his life because it was there that he met Julie and formed friendships that endured for decades. Following ROTC at Santa Clara, Fred was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army. Trained as an artillery officer, he served for 13 months in Chuncheon, South Korea, and was honorably discharged as a First Lieutenant. After a brief stint with Ford Motor Company, Fred began a remarkable 42-year career with IBM. Starting in San Jose, Calif., he built a career in sales and relationship management that took him around the world. He helped establish IBM’s presence in China during the late 1980s, spending three years living in Hong Kong with Julie and their family, and later worked in Paris.

Throughout his career, he valued the friendships he built as much as his professional accomplishments. An avid golfer and fisherman, Fred was a longtime member of the Country Club of New Canaan and the Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples. He cherished time spent at the annual Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, fishing in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Florida, and vacationing with family on Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, in Tuscany, and in Naples.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at St. Aloysius Church, 21 Cherry Street New Canaan, CT 06840, followed by a celebration of life. Interment will be private and held at a later date.

The Tufts Family is being compassionately cared for by the staff at Hoyt Funeral Home, 199 Main Street, New Canaan, CT 06840. For online condolences, please visit [www.hoytfuneralhome.com](http://www.hoytfuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Fred’s memory to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

The family is deeply grateful to Fred’s physicians, nurses, medical staff, and the many friends and family members whose support, kindness, and friendship sustained them throughout the past several years.

### LEGAL AD

#### TOWN OF NEW CANAAN PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission at a regular meeting held via hybrid and in person on June 23, 2026 duly adopted the following resolution(s). Approved Applications become effective upon the filing of a copy thereof in the office of the Town Clerk.

1. RESOLVED, 30 Parade Hill Road – that application of Amy E. Souchuns, MacDermid; Reynolds & Glissman, P.C., Authorized Agent for GHF Parade Hill Road, LLC, owner(s), for Site Plan approval pursuant to Sect. 8-30g of the CT General Statutes to construct a 14- residential unit structure in the B Residence & Half Acre Zones at 30 Parade Hill Road (Map P, Block 42, Lot 852) is denied.
2. RESOLVED, Text Amendment – Deliberation and vote on the proposed amendments to: Section 2.2 (Defined Terms), All Sections of Article 4 (Business Zones, renamed to Commercial Zones), Creation of Section 5.11 (Conservation and Traffic Mitigation District), Section 6.2 (Parking and Loading), and Section 7.6 (Affordable Housing) of the New Canaan Zoning Regulations, which were the subject of public hearings held on June 2, 2026 and June 23, 2026 is approved and effective July 1, 2026.
3. RESOLVED, Zoning Map Amendment - Deliberation and vote on the proposed zoning map amendments including the amendments to the Downtown Business and Retail Zones and the creation of one Conservation and Traffic Mitigation District is approved and effective July 1, 2026.

Krista Neilson, Secretary  
Dated June 23, 2026

## LEGAL & CLASSIFIED ADS

### LEGAL AD

#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT TOWN OF NEW CANAAN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** of the **Town of New Canaan** will hold a **Public Hearing** on **Monday, July 6, 2026** this hearing is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting and will be both in person in the Board Room at Town Hall, 77 Main Street and virtually via zoom at 7:00 p.m. Zoom link will be posted on the calendar at [newcanaan.info](http://newcanaan.info).

1. 901 North Wilton Road – Zoning Variance – Upon application of Doug MacMillian, MacMillan Architects, Authorized Agent for Jamie Kemp, owner(s), for a Variance of Section(s) 3.5.E to allow an addition 31 feet from the side property line where 35 feet is required in the Four Acre Zone at 901 North Wilton Road (Map 47, Block 124, Lot 11).

Luke T. Tashjian, Chairman  
Dated: June 25, 2026



# REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

## REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD EDITOR

John Engel | John.Engel@Elliman.com

## REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD CONTRIBUTOR

Robyn Bonder | Robyn.Bonder@Elliman.com

### NEW SALES

| Address               | Original List | List Price  | Sold Price  | DOM | BR | FB | Acres |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----|----|----|-------|
| 118 Old Kings Highway | \$900,000     | \$900,000   | \$920,000   | 58  | 2  | 2  | .68   |
| 39 Park Place         | \$1,395,000   | \$1,395,000 | \$1,500,000 | 36  | 3  | 2  |       |
| 50 Heritage Hill Road | \$1,425,000   | \$1,425,000 | \$1,551,540 | 13  | 3  | 2  |       |
| 224 Marvin Ridge      | \$1,500,000   | \$1,500,000 | \$1,450,000 | 19  | 3  | 3  | 1.02  |
| 493 Valley Road       | \$1,595,000   | \$1,595,000 | \$1,850,000 | 14  | 4  | 3  | 2.09  |
| 176 Carter Street     | \$2,695,000   | \$2,695,000 | \$2,805,000 | 14  | 6  | 4  | 1.74  |
| 1218 Smith Ridge Road | \$2,995,000   | \$2,995,000 | \$3,200,000 | 11  | 5  | 5  | 4.56  |

### NEW LISTINGS

| Address                       | List Price  | SqFt  | Price/SqFt | AC   | BR | FB |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------|------------|------|----|----|
| 84 Heritage Hill Road         | \$815,000   | 1,211 | \$673      |      | 3  | 2  |
| 99 Forest Street              | \$1,395,000 | 2,326 | \$600      |      | 2  | 3  |
| 289 New Norwalk Rd Unit #39   | \$1,450,000 | 2,220 | \$653      |      | 3  | 2  |
| 160 Forest Street             | \$2,295,000 | 2,192 | \$1,047    |      | 3  | 3  |
| 51 Horton Lane                | \$2,295,000 | 2,330 | \$985      | 1    | 4  | 2  |
| 145 Oenoke Lane               | \$2,495,000 | 2,670 | \$934      |      | 3  | 2  |
| 235 Hawks Hill Road           | \$2,495,000 | 4,609 | \$541      | 2.01 | 5  | 4  |
| 20 Richmond Hill Road         | \$2,498,000 | 2,954 | \$846      |      | 4  | 4  |
| 14 Richmond Hill Road Unit #1 | \$2,695,000 | 3,351 | \$804      |      | 4  | 4  |
| 108 Logan Road                | \$3,200,000 | 5,339 | \$599      | 5.87 | 6  | 6  |
| 760 Smith Ridge Road          | \$3,595,000 | 6,556 | \$548      | 5.13 | 4  | 3  |
| 148 Douglas Road              | \$4,495,000 | 5,401 | \$832      | .39  | 5  | 4  |
| 48 Driftway Lane              | \$6,999,000 | 8,655 | \$809      | 1.62 | 5  | 5  |

### FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

Get Your Open Houses Into the MLS by Wednesday at Noon for a Listing Here

| Address                     | Price       | Day       | Time           | Broker |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|--------|
| 36 Mortimer Street          | \$1,795,000 | SAT       | 1:00 - 3:00 pm | BHS    |
| 289 New Norwalk Rd Unit #39 | \$1,450,000 | SAT & SUN | 1:00 - 4:00 pm | Raveis |

## The Paradox of the Empty Market

*Fierce competition should result in rising prices in Riverside and Cos Cob*



By JOHN ENGEL

Fairfield County's most expensive markets are not all moving in the same direction. Some are producing aggressive price appreciation with buyers paying well over ask. Others have almost no inventory and still cannot generate meaningful price gains. The difference matters because scarcity alone does not make a market hot. It just means fewer homes are available. What makes a market hot is buyers competing hard enough to push prices higher. Greenwich and Old Greenwich are doing that. Cos Cob and Riverside have tighter supply than either of them and are not.

The Hotness Index scores each market on scarcity, price per square foot, bidding strength, and transaction velocity. It uses price per square foot rather than median price because median moves with the mix of what closes in a given month, not with the underlying market. A score above 5 is a seller's market.

#### 7.4 Greenwich: Price per foot leading the county



Price per square foot rose 19.3% year over year to \$915, the strongest ppsf appreciation in this entire study. Twenty-seven homes closed in May, up 8% year over year. Buyers paid 100.9% of list. Inventory fell 37.3% to 79 homes, and months supply sits at 2.9. Days on market rose to 24, up 41% from a year ago. Homes are taking longer to go under contract than they did last spring. The delay is in the decision, not the price. When buyers commit, they are paying over ask on a market where price per foot is rising faster than anywhere else in the county.

#### 7.2 Old Greenwich: The most competitive bidding in the study



Buyers paid 109.9% of list in Old Greenwich in May, the highest sale-to-list ratio of any market in this article, up 7.7 points year over year. Price per square foot rose 16.3% to \$1,014. Seven closings, down 36.4% year over year, which drags the velocity score. Low volume in Old Greenwich is almost always a supply problem, not a demand problem. There are 18 homes for sale. When buyers are consistently paying 110 cents on the

dollar in a market with 18 available homes, the constraint is inventory, not interest. Sellers who do list are being rewarded at a level that few markets in Connecticut can match.

*When buyers cannot afford or cannot find what they want in one market, they move to the next one.*

#### 6.0 Cos Cob: Scarcest supply, price not yet following



Seven homes for sale, down 41.7% year over year. Months supply: 1.0, the tightest reading in this study. Buyers paid 104% of list and homes went under contract in 10 days, down 56.5% from a year ago. By every measure of scarcity and competition, this market should be producing aggressive price appreciation. Price per square foot rose only 1.9% to \$803. That gap between tight supply and flat prices is unusual and worth watching. The buyer pool in Cos Cob is active: Homes are moving fast and sellers are getting over ask. The pool is not yet deep enough at current price levels to push values meaningfully higher. If more buyers enter or fewer homes come available, the price response could be sharp.

#### 5.7 Riverside: Structural scarcity, pricing power lagging



Ten homes for sale, down 61.5% year over year. Months supply: 1.1. Nine closings in May, up 125% from April. Buyers paid 103.4% of list. Days on market: nine. Price per square foot fell 6% year over year to \$827. In a market with one month of supply, falling ppsf means buyers are finding what they want within the available inventory without having to stretch on price. The scarcity is real. The pricing power is not confirming it. Either prices catch up in the next few months, or the lack of appreciation despite minimal inventory reflects something more structural about where buyers draw the line at this price point.

#### 7.5 Rowayton: The most extreme market in the county



Ten homes for sale, down 37.5% year over year. Five closed sales at 122% of list price, the highest sale-to-list ratio in Fairfield County by a wide margin, up nearly 28 points from a year ago. Median price hit \$2.6 million. Price per square foot: \$1,070, also the highest in the county. Days on market: seven. At five transactions, the sample is thin and the confidence is lower than in a larger market. A 122% sale-to-list ratio across five sales still means buyers are consistently paying 22 cents over every dollar asked. That level of bidding reflects a buyer pool that has decided Rowayton is worth almost any premium to secure. The constraint is entirely on the supply side.

#### 6.8 Darien: Tightest supply among the larger towns



Months supply: 1.8, the lowest of any larger market in this study. Buyers paid 110.8% of list, second only to Rowayton. Days on market: eight. Pending sales jumped from 29 in April to 39 in May. Closings doubled month over month from 13 to 27. On every behavioral measure, Darien is running hot. Price per square foot rose only 0.5% year over year, and median price fell 3.8% to \$2.5 million. The most defensible read is mix shift: The homes that happened to close in May skewed toward smaller properties, pulling the median and ppsf down without reflecting a change in market conditions. When buyers are paying 110 cents on the dollar in a market with 1.8 months of supply, the price metrics are a data artifact, not a trend.

#### 7.0 Westport: The strongest appreciation story among the inland towns



Price per square foot rose 20.1% year over year to \$723, the highest ppsf appreciation of any of the four inland towns in this study. Median price rose 9.3% to \$2.35 million. Pending sales hit 47, the highest of any market in this article. Buyers paid 101.6% of list. Inventory rose to 96 homes and months supply sits at 3.2, which is why scarcity

scores lower than Darien. More supply without price softening is the healthiest version of a seller's market — enough inventory to give buyers real choices, not enough to give them leverage. Westport in May was a steady, deep market where demand exceeded supply at every price point.

#### 5.5 New Canaan: Seller's market, softer month



Median price up 5.2% year over year to \$2,675 million. Price per square foot up 4.1% to \$586. Months supply at 2.4. All three say seller's market. Closed sales fell 41.7% year over year, from 32 in April to 14 in May. Pending sales dropped from 36 to 29. Days on market jumped from 13 to 30. Sale-to-list slipped from 102.9% to 99.3%. The score sits above 5 because the market structure is still tight and prices are still rising. The spring acceleration that showed up in Darien and Westport did not arrive in New Canaan in May. Buyers have more negotiating room here than in any other market in this article, and sellers who price to last spring rather than this one will feel it in their days on market.

The narrow range of scores across these eight markets, from 7.5 to 5.5, is consistent with the substitution principle. When buyers cannot afford or cannot find what they want in one market, they move to the next one. Old Greenwich and Rowayton are running out of product. Darien has 1.8 months of supply where 6 months represents a balanced market. Demand under pressure finds the path of least resistance; Westport is absorbing it at rising prices, and New Canaan is next in line. Whether that translates to accelerating velocity in New Canaan in June depends on what comes to market and whether sellers price to the moment.

*John Engel is a broker on The Engel Team at Douglas Elliman. The data point that surprised him most this month was how narrow the score range is across eight of the county's most expensive markets. His read on why: substitution. When prices in one town get out of reach, buyers move to the next one, and the index measures exactly how far that substitution is traveling. He expects scores to soften by September as scarcity continues to depress velocity — fewer homes means fewer transactions, not more. On the buyer side, he is watching an influx from New York, Florida, Texas, and California, markets where Fairfield County prices look reasonable, not expensive. For New Canaan to score above 7, the answer is more inventory. More listings create more transactions, and velocity is what is holding the score down right now.*

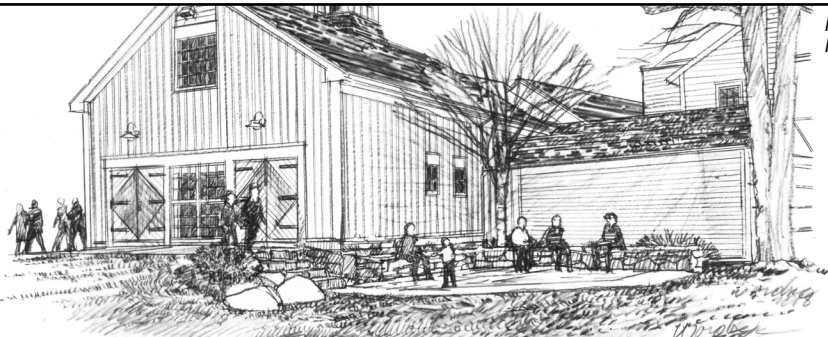
*Greenwich data is sourced from the Greenwich Association of Realtors MLS and reflects single family residences. All other data is sourced from SmartMLS.*

Submit questions and comments to John.Engel@Elliman.com



Keith E. Simpson Associates

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
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LAND PLANNING



New Canaan Historical Society



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# Connecticut’s Long-Term Care Insurance Opportunity Loss



By Russell R. Barksdale, Jr.

Connecticut’s long-term care insurance debate is being framed as a consumer protection story. In reality, it may become a cautionary tale about what happens when policymakers attempt to regulate away economic reality.

The recent passage of Connecticut’s Senate Bill 478 was intended to shield policyholders from painful premium increases by imposing stricter disclosure requirements, spreading out large rate hikes over multiple years, and increasing oversight of insurers. On paper, the legislation sounds compassionate and politically sensible. No one wants to see retirees blindsided by unaffordable increases after decades of faithfully paying premiums.

But good intentions do not repeal actuarial mathematics.

The uncomfortable truth is that long-term care insurance is already one of the most financially fragile sectors in American insurance markets. Connecticut’s new approach risks accelerating the very collapse it seeks to prevent.

The underlying problem is not corporate greed or inadequate regulation. It is demographics.

America’s aging population — the so-called “grey wave” — is no longer approaching. It has arrived. Connecticut now ranks among the oldest states in the nation, with nearly one in

## *That combination creates an enormous economic imbalance.*

five residents already over age 65. Over the next two decades, the senior population is expected to grow dramatically while the working-age population barely grows at all. At the same time, nearly 70 percent of Americans turning 65 today are expected to require some form of long-term care during their lifetimes.

That combination creates an enormous economic imbalance. More people will require care, for longer periods of time, while fewer workers are available to provide it. The result is predictable: labor shortages, rising wages for caregivers, escalating nursing home costs, and sustained inflation across the entire long-term care system.

Insurers are not immune from those forces. In fact, many carriers are still paying for pricing assumptions made decades ago that proved disastrously optimistic. Early long-term care policies underestimated life expectancy, overestimated how many people would let policies lapse, and failed to anticipate the explosive growth in healthcare and custodial care costs.

Those miscalculations created massive liabilities that insurers are still struggling to absorb.

In that context, restricting insurers’ ability to adjust premiums does not eliminate the costs. It merely relocates them. The financial pressure shifts from policyholders to insurers’ balance

sheets — and eventually, if insolvencies occur, to taxpayers and Medicaid.

That is why many major insurers have already exited the long-term care market entirely.

The danger facing Connecticut is not simply higher premiums. It is the slow disappearance of the market itself.

When regulators impose prolonged approval delays, political scrutiny, or artificial caps on pricing flexibility, insurers respond rationally: they stop offering products in those states. Fewer carriers mean less competition, fewer consumer options, tighter underwriting standards, and even higher costs for future buyers.

Ironically, regulations designed to make coverage more affordable can ultimately make coverage unavailable.

This dynamic has already played out nationally. Over the past two decades, dozens of insurers have either withdrawn from the long-term care market or sharply reduced participation. The remaining carriers have become increasingly cautious, limiting access to only the healthiest and wealthiest applicants.

That leaves middle-income families trapped in an impossible gap — too financially secure to qualify for Medicaid initially, yet nowhere near wealthy enough to privately absorb years of nursing home or home-care expenses.

When private coverage shrinks, the burden does not disappear. It migrates to community

non-profit healthcare providers already under severe strain.

Medicaid becomes the default payer. Hospitals hold patients longer because post-acute placements are unavailable. Non-profit nursing homes and community healthcare organizations absorb growing levels of uncompensated care. State budgets face mounting pressure as long-term care spending crowds out funding for education, infrastructure, and other priorities.

Connecticut lawmakers are right to worry about affordability. But affordability cannot be achieved by ignoring the economics of risk.

A healthier strategy would focus on making the market more attractive to competition rather than more hostile to participation. Faster regulatory approvals, interstate product standardization, support for hybrid life-and-long-term-care products, and public-private reinsurance partnerships could all help stabilize the market while preserving meaningful consumer protections.

Most importantly, policymakers must recognize that long-term care financing is not a short-term political problem. It is one of the defining economic challenges of an aging society.

The temptation in Hartford — and in many state capitals — is to promise immediate relief through tighter regulation. But if those policies drive more insurers from the market, consumers may ultimately discover that the greatest threat was never rising premiums.

It was having no coverage options left at all.

*Russell R. Barksdale, Jr., PHD, MPA/MHA, FACHE is President and CEO Waveny LifeCare Network.*

## P&Z REJECTS PARADE HILL

From Page 1

unit residential building. The site sits partly in the B Residence Zone and partly in the Half-Acre Zone.

Rather than revisit issues such as traffic, neighborhood character and parking that dominated earlier hearings, commissioners focused their June 23 deliberations on a narrower legal question: whether the project qualified as “assisted housing” and was therefore exempt from New Canaan’s active affordable housing moratorium.

The proposed development would have included 14 two- and three-bedroom units, a 16-space parking lot and a three-story building measuring nearly 39 feet in height. Commission findings noted that

the project exceeded several underlying zoning standards, including density, building coverage and parking requirements, but the applicant argued those regulations were preempted because the project qualified for protection under state affordable housing law.

Attorney Amy Souchuns, representing the applicant, argued throughout the proceedings that the project met the state’s definition of assisted housing because Garden Homes Fund had received approval for a state tax exemption associated with low- and moderate-income housing construction and because five units would be linked to Shelter Plus Care rental assistance vouchers administered through the Housing Collective.

As part of an alternative affordability plan, the applicant offered to make all 14 units income-restricted, with five reserved for recipients of Shelter Plus Care vouchers. The developer also proposed

deed restrictions intended to preserve affordability in perpetuity.

Commission members, however, spent much of the June 23 meeting reviewing a lengthy denial resolution that concluded the project failed to satisfy the threshold legal requirements for assisted housing status. The commission found that New Canaan’s affordable housing moratorium remains in effect and that the proposal therefore remained subject to the town’s underlying zoning regulations.

Because the proposed 14-unit multifamily building does not conform to zoning regulations governing the property—including permitted uses, setbacks, building coverage and building height—the commission determined the application could not be approved absent the protections afforded by §8-30g.

The resolution ultimately concluded that the development “is not assisted housing” and therefore does not qualify for exemption from the

town’s affordable housing moratorium. As a result, commissioners voted to deny the site plan application.

The decision ends one of the most closely watched land-use cases in New Canaan this year, though the applicant retains the option of challenging the denial in court. During earlier hearings, debate centered on whether the project provided adequate parking, with commissioners expressing concern that overflow parking could spill onto Parade Hill Road, while the applicant maintained the development was appropriately designed and would not worsen existing neighborhood conditions.

The June 23 vote marked the culmination of a review process that began when the application was filed in February and included public hearings on March 31, April 28 and May 26.



By Jay Briar

When parents look at their growing children, particularly as they enter the choppy waters of adolescence, it is completely natural to feel a sense of protectiveness. We want to believe that our children, whom we have loved, nurtured, and taught right from wrong, will always walk a straight line. So, it can come as a profound shock when a teacher calls home to report that their child has stepped out of bounds or, worse, lied about a mistake.

In those moments, the instinctive reaction can often be defensiveness or a feeling of

personal failure. But I want to offer a different perspective. Your child is a good kid. They are not innate liars or troublemakers. Testing limits and navigating boundaries is a normal, healthy part of growing up.

From a developmental standpoint, testing boundaries is a necessary mechanism for identity formation. In an overview of teen behavior published by the Youth Coaching Institute, researchers point out that adolescent deception or rule-bending often serves an essential developmental function. As young people work to establish personal autonomy and independence, pushing against limits is a way to map out where they stand in relation to authority figures and the world around them. It is an exploration of personal boundaries, not a permanent moral failing.

When a child tells a lie or breaks

# Why Good Kids Test Boundaries

*When a child pushes a boundary, they are not failing a moral test; they are simply checking to see if the adults in their life care enough.*

a rule, it is not a value judgment on our parenting, nor is it a defining characteristic of their personality. It is simply a child checking to see if the “fence” is still there, and if it is still sturdy.

How adults respond to these moments is incredibly important. If a child never encounters a firm consequence or an honest conversation when they cross a line, they miss out on learning where the safety parameters of life exist. A landmark study on middle and high school students by researchers

at the Harvard Graduate School of Education underscores the value of academic socialization and structural boundaries. The study found that maintaining consistent parental structure at home, paired with proactive and collaborative communication between parents and teachers, directly relates to a decrease in problematic behaviors and an increase in emotional resilience.

This is exactly why that dreaded phone call from the school should not be viewed as an adversarial

confrontation, but as a vital partnership. At Whitby, when we contact a family about a behavioral misstep, it is never about labeling a child. It is about locking arms with parents. We are working together to ensure that our students learn accountability in a safe, supportive space. By holding the line together, we ensure that these boundary-testing moments become the building blocks for an accountable, successful adulthood.

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# The Return of the Monarchs

By Frank Gallo

In late summer, the last generation of monarch butterflies, known as the super generation, which can live for 8-9 months rather than a few weeks, leaves Connecticut for the oyamel fir forests in the mountains of central Mexico, 3000 miles away. Many will arrive in November and will overwinter with thousands of other monarchs until March or early April. These fir forests are at altitudes between 7,900–11,800 feet above sea level and provide a stable microclimate with temperatures between 15°F and 59°F, high humidity, and protection from harsh winds, allowing them to survive the winter in reproductive dormancy.

En route, they can migrate at heights of several thousand feet using thermal updrafts and high-altitude wind currents to help propel them on their roughly two-month southerly journey. The thermals and wind currents allow them to glide rather than flap for much of the trip. This is the same technique employed by migrating hawks, especially Broad-winged Hawks.

They catch thermal updrafts, circle up as high as they can within them in swirling kettles often of several hundred birds, before gliding off to the next thermal where they’ll repeat the process on their way to Mexico, Central, and South America.

At fall hawk watching sights, highflying migrating monarchs are sometimes mistaken for Broad-winged Hawks, earning them the moniker (nickname), “Broad-winged Butterflies.” When high in the sky, they often glide by on set wings at a surprisingly fast clip. Some have been clocked going 30 mph. Most travel between 40-100 miles per day under favorable conditions, however, the farthest recorded single-day flight by a monarch was 265 miles, according to the US forest service.

In early spring, they all fly north into the southern U.S. where they mate and lay eggs on milkweed plants. The eggs hatch in 3-5 days into young caterpillars which feed on the milkweed; the alkaloids from which, render them toxic to birds. The monarch’s bright orange coloration advertises their

*The thermals and wind currents allow them to glide rather than flap for much of the trip.*

toxicity.

Over the next 12-19 days, the caterpillars grow through 5 instar stages before the final instar attaches to a leaf, forms a chrysalis, and for the next 8-14 days undergoes a complete metamorphosis to transform into an adult butterfly. The whole process can take as little as 23 days but averages closer to 30 days from egg to adult. These adults live for only 2-6 weeks.

These new adults, and each subsequent generation, continue migrating north and laying eggs until they reach Connecticut in late spring or summer. The monarchs that return to Connecticut in May-June are the great-grandchildren or great-great-grandchildren of the monarchs that left the state in the previous fall. The cycle will repeat itself come autumn.

How do monarchs accomplish this amazing migration

feat? Their ability to navigate is hardwired into their DNA, so each generation, regardless of whether it’s the first or the last to return north, knows where to go. An internal circadian clock in their antennae signals when it is time to migrate, integrating seasonal environmental clues, such as day length, temperature shifts, plant availability and other seasonal changes. Along their journey, they use their eyes and circadian clock as a sun compass and track and adjust to the sun’s movement across the sky. Under cloudy conditions, they may be able to use the Earth’s magnetic field for directional clues.

Monarchs “know” where they are going because of a combination of genetic programming, internal biological clocks, and environmental sensing, allowing them to complete their incredible, multi-generational

journey with remarkable precision.

If you’d like to see monarchs, their zebra-striped caterpillars, and perhaps a bright green chrysalis’s, visit the Nature Center this spring/summer. The Visitors Center gardens have a variety of milkweed species planted to attract monarchs and many other butterflies.

If you are up for a challenge, see if you can discern the difference between male and female monarchs. Male monarchs differ from females by having a dark dot (pheromone pouch) on their hind wings and a less bold wing pattern.

Much of what we know about the spectacular migration of monarchs is from studies conducted by Monarch Watch. Their large-scale citizen science tagging program was initiated in 1992 by Dr. Fred Urquhart of the University of Toronto “to help understand the dynamics of the monarch’s spectacular fall migration through mark and recapture.” Through their program, monarchs are fitted with a numbered wing tag and released.

If our local monarchs have a successful summer, and you would like to participate in tagging monarchs, I’ll be offering a program in early September at the Nature Center. Stay tuned. Check our webpage in late August: [www.newcanaannature.org](http://www.newcanaannature.org). For more information about monarch tagging, or if you’d like to tag monarchs on your own, visit their website at <https://www.monarchwatch.org>. Butterfly nets and other equipment are required.

Plant milkweed if you’d like to attract monarchs to your yard. Common milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*, swamp milkweed, *A. incarnata* (water tolerant), and butterfly weed, *A. tuberosa* (orange) are all native milkweeds that do well here.

Frank Gallo is the Senior Naturalist at the New Canaan Nature Center located at 144 Oenoke Ridge, and the author of Birding in Connecticut – a comprehensive bird-finding site guide. He can be reached at [Fgallo@newcanaannature.org](mailto:Fgallo@newcanaannature.org). For more on the New Canaan Nature Center, visit [www.NewCanaanNature.org](http://www.NewCanaanNature.org).



A migrating monarch gliding on the wind. Photo by Frank Gallo.



Common Milkweed  
Photo: Frank Gallo



Butterfly Weed  
Photo: Frank Gallo



Swamp Milkweed  
Photo: Courtney Celley USFWS



Monarch caterpillar.  
Photo: Frank Gallo



Monarch Chrysalis  
Photo: Tina Shaw USFWS



Common Milkweed: Normally purple, their flowers can be pale pink. Photo: Frank Gallo



Common Milkweed Pods with harmless large milkweed bugs. Photo: Frank Gallo



Common Milkweed Pods releasing seeds to the wind. Photo: Frank Gallo



Tagged Monarch  
Photo: Veronica Reed USFWS



Monarch Chrysalis (early stage). Photo: Grayson Smith USFWS



Monarch Egg. Photo: USFWS



Male Monarch showing dark pheromone pouches on its hind wings. Photo: Courtney Celley USFWS



Monarch on Ironweed. Photo: Frank Gallo



Monarch on Ironweed. Photo: Frank Gallo





**Submit your events at: [newcanaansentinel.com/submit-an-event/](https://newcanaansentinel.com/submit-an-event/)**

**TOWN MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, June 30**

**Charter Revision Commission**

5-6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room

**Friday, June 26**

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

8:30 - 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center

**Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.**

**Saturday, June 27**

**NC250 Parade**

9:30 AM from South Avenue to NCHS

**The parade is part of the town's 250th Independence Day celebration. Patriotically decorated floats and bicycles, colonial attired local groups, vintage cars, marching bands, and fife & drum will be in the parade.**

**Photography Intensive with James Florio**

10 AM- 2 PM at Grace Farms

Join Artist-in-Residence and renowned photographer James Florio for an immersive four-hour photography intensive that deepens your ability to see and capture the relationship between land, light, and architecture. Please bring your own camera. Register at [gracefarms.org/event/photography-intensive-with-james-florio](https://gracefarms.org/event/photography-intensive-with-james-florio).

**The Great American Campout**

3:30 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center

Join for an evening of fun, an animal show, night hike, s'mores, and more. Take part in the Great American Campout- NCNC's 16<sup>th</sup> year participating in the National Wildlife Federation's Great American Campout, a nation-wide celebration of camping to connect to nature and wildlife. The campout will end Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Register at [newcanaannature.org/the-great-american-campout/](https://newcanaannature.org/the-great-american-campout/).

**Monday, June 29**

**Music Appreciation | Concert Performance by Hyperion Knight**

2:30 PM at the Lapham Center

Enjoy pieces from Chopin, Liszt, Schuman, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Joplin, Kern and Gershwin. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

**Tuesday, June 30**

**Art | The Edge of the Possible: The Story of Utzon and the Sydney Opera House**

1 PM at the Lapham Center

This program tells the story of the design and construction of the Sydney Opera House. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

**Wednesday, July 1**

**Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinic**

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center

Ellen Samai, RN, from New Canaan's Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommended you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free. For more information, call (203) 594-3620

**An Afternoon at the Movies: 1776**

4 PM at the Lapham Center

Join for this lively and energetic historical musical drama which premiered in 1972. In the days leading up to July 4, 1776, Continental Congressmen John Adams and Benjamin Franklin coerce

Thomas Jefferson into writing the Declaration of Independence. Large portions of spoken and sung dialogue are taken directly from the letters and memoirs of the actual participants. Followed by pizza, salad, and cookies. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620

**Summer Movie: *Jaws***

6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

Join for a screening of *Jaws* (1975). Directed by Steven Spielberg, this iconic movie will make you scared to go into the water. When a rogue shark terrorizes a small New England town just days before the Fourth of July, it's up to the chief of police, a marine biologist, and a grizzled fisherman to hunt the beast down. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/movie-screening-jaws-196800](https://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/movie-screening-jaws-196800).

**Concert | Mind the Gap - Rock & Roll**

7:30-9:30 PM at Waveny Park (Back Lawn)

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of live music at Waveny Park.

**Waveny Firefly Tour**

9 PM at Waveny Park

Light up your summer evening with a Firefly Tour. Join local firefly expert Bill McDonald for a guided walk through the Waveny Park native meadow and experience the magic of fireflies taking flight across the summer night. Register at [newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/waveny-park-firefly-tour/](https://newcanaanlandtrust.org/events/waveny-park-firefly-tour/).

**Thursday, July 2**

**Fourth of July Mocktails**

6:30 PM at Grace Farms

In this special Fourth of July-themed class, follow Chef Leah's recipes to mix vibrant and refreshing beverages. Tickets are available at [gracefarms.org/event/mocktails-summer-2026](https://gracefarms.org/event/mocktails-summer-2026).

**Friday, July 3**

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

8:30 - 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center

**Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.**

**Saturday, July 4**

**Fourth of July Fireworks**

5 PM in Waveny Park

This year's event is celebrating our country's 250th year of independence and offers fun for the entire family - gourmet food trucks, picnicking, children's games, gathering with friends, and a fireworks display that will be recognized as second-to-none. The local band "One Bad Oyster" will perform from approximately 5:30 to 7 pm, and the Town Band will play classic, patriotic holiday music from 7:30 to 9:15 pm. More information and passes are available at [newcanaan.info/community/new\\_canaan\\_4th\\_of\\_july\\_fireworks/index.php](https://newcanaan.info/community/new_canaan_4th_of_july_fireworks/index.php).

**Monday, July 6**

**Music Appreciation | The Development of Music**

2:30 PM at the Lapham Center

From the time that Pythagoras discovered the mathematical ratios of harmonic scales, it took the greatest minds over two thousand years to tune the major and minor keys. Pope Gregory I, Charlemagne, Sir Isaac Newton and others contributed to the advancement of the science of music building to the crescendo of Baroque operas. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

**Tuesday, July 7**

**Art: The Most Amazing Bridges**

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Each of the featured bridges is in some way unique, varying in architecture, construction and geography. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620

**Wednesday, July 8**

**Lunch and Learn | More History of New Canaan and Surrounding Area with Keith Simpson**

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center

Local historian and landscape architect Keith Simpson provides in-depth insights into New Canaan's development, focusing on its evolution from 18th-century rural roots to a modern suburb--highlighting the impact of the Lapham family and Waveny Park, the creation of the Merritt Parkway, and the town's architectural and landscape history.

**Waveny Summer Concert | Otis and the Hurricanes - New Orleans Funk, Delta Blues**

7:30-9:30 PM at Waveny Park (Back Lawn)

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of live music at Waveny Park.

**Thursday, July 9**

**Free Medicare Counseling**

By Appointment at the Lapham Center

A CHOICES certified Medicare counselor, provides free, objective, information about Medicare options and related benefits including enrolling, choosing a supplemental plan and Part D prescription drug plan, and understanding Medicare Advantage plans. Available to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Free. Call (203) 594-3620 to schedule an appointment.

**Embroidery for Intermediate Sewers**

1-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

In this series, sewers will use several familiar stitch and knot techniques to create a beautiful piece of art. In the final session, you will learn a basic DIY framing technique. *You must bring your own 5x7 frame.* Each participant will take home a lovely piece of art and a new set of skills. The other sessions will be on July 16, 23, and 30. Please only sign up if you can attend all sessions. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/copy-embroidery-intermediate-sewers-224493](https://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/copy-embroidery-intermediate-sewers-224493).

**Intergenerational String Quartet Concert:**

**250+ Years of American Music**

5 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium

Join Janey & Friends in an hourlong string quartet concert and journey through the diverse landscape of American Musical History. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/intergenerational-string-quartet-concert-208503](https://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/intergenerational-string-quartet-concert-208503).

**Once Upon a Darker Time: The Brothers Grimm and German Folklore**

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

Join reference librarian Flannery for an exploration of the darker history behind the Brothers Grimm, the role of oral storytelling in German culture, and the enduring power of these tales to reveal what societies fear, value, and remember. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/brothers-grimm](https://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/brothers-grimm).

**Friday, July 10**

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

8:30 - 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center

**Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.**

**Matilda The Musical**

6:30 PM at the NCHS Theater, 11 Farm Rd

This summer, step into the wildly imaginative world of Matilda the Musical - a magical musical adventure for the whole family. Filled with humor, magic, and circus spectacle, Matilda celebrates courage, creativity, and the power of believing in yourself. Tickets are available at [stonc.org](https://stonc.org).

**Saturday, July 11**

**New Canaan's Got Talent (Grades 1-12)**

2-4:20 PM at the New Canaan Library

Have a special talent? Go show it off at the New Canaan's Got Talent, Talent Show. All children entering grades 1- 12 are welcome to participate in the show! Children can showcase any talent they choose, from magic tricks to playing an instrument -- no talent is too small! Register at <https://shorturl.at/ulk7r>. Audience registration is available at <https://shorturl.at/X2fDg>.

**Night of 1,000 Fireflies**

7:30-9 PM at the New Canaan Nature Center

Join Naturalists and search for woodland creatures and other enchanted mysteries of the night. Delight in the awe-inspiring beauty of the NCNC meadows aglow with the soft light of 1,000+ fireflies. Registration will be available at [newcanaannature.org/night-hikes/](https://newcanaannature.org/night-hikes/).

**Tuesday, July 14**

**Art Appreciation: Building a Palace**

1 PM at the Lapham Center

A 17th-century treasure, the Chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte, is one of the biggest private properties in France. This program will explore the construction project and architectural prowess of the builders who would go on to work on Versailles. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620

**Midweek Reset - A New Moon Experience**

6:45-8 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center

The New Moon is the darkest night of the lunar cycle - and the most powerful moment to begin again. This gathering is a gentle evening for women to release what's been heavy, get quiet, and plant one clear intention for the month ahead. Registration is \$60/early bird rate, \$75/after July 1, and available at [carriagebarn.org/event/midweek-reset/](https://carriagebarn.org/event/midweek-reset/).

**Wednesday, July 15**

**Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinic**

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center

Ellen Samai, RN, from New Canaan's Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommended you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free. For more information, call (203) 594-3620

**Take a Trip to Istanbul with Marc Wollin**

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Experience the culture and history of this ancient city through the breathtaking photography of its people, architecture, and landscape. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620

**Summer Fun with Deb | Beach Hut Craft**

2 PM at the Lapham Center

Using wood supplies, paint, and accessories, we'll create a 5-inch traditional Dorset beach hut to display on a bookshelf or knick-knack table. Class limited to ten. \$5/person. To register, call (203) 594-3620

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

**ACROSS**

1 In unison

6 Indonesian tourist destination

10 Salon sound

14 E-cigarette user

15 “Die Hard” actor

16 Rickman Lounge around

17 Geographic area around the South Pole

20 “Really?!”

21 Crash investiga-tors?

22 Dream Team jersey letters

23 Polo shirt brand

25 Fitting

27 Outfielder’s highlight reel play

33 Palindromic Indian flour

36 Chimpanzee, e.g.

37 In \_\_\_\_ of (replacing)

38 Blameless person’s feeling

42 Feathery fashion statements

43 Pop star Rita

44 Concert hall section

45 Its door always opens at 9 a.m.

49 \_\_\_\_Kosh B’gosh

50 Reliably profitable product

55 “Oh really?! \_\_\_\_ who?”

57 Gretel’s brother

61 Dog food brand

62 100% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, say

65 Prayer’s last word

66 Idyllic garden

67 Animal life

68 Ship’s pole

69 Woodcutting tools

70 “WandaVi-sion” actress Elizabeth

**DOWN**

1 Be of use

2 Stark who was crowned queen in “Game of Thrones”

3 Vision-related

4 “Super cool!”

5 Slip up

6 Cake maker’s mixture

7 Landed

8 Doily fabric

9 Machu Picchu builder

10 Type of 35mm camera

11 “Go to the back of the line!”

12 Societal woes

13 Earnest request

18 \_\_\_\_ Field (Mets’ ballpark)

19 Apple on a desktop?

24 Mark from an old injury

26 “Ancient” diet

28 Waterway through Panama

29 Shipping company

30 Instant, briefly

31 Gospel’s Winans

32 Color

33 Baseball’s Moises or Felipe

34 Pot covers for afternoon socials

35 To-do list items

38 Network with national “Hockey Night” broadcasts

39 Sound from a baby or dove

40 “The Lord of the Rings” menace

41 Varieties

46 “Crazy to run into you here!”

47 Atlantic and Pacific, for two

48 Math class after trig

51 Kosher : Judaism :: \_\_\_\_ : Islam

52 Santa \_\_\_\_ (man with a prominent list)

53 Offer a take

54 “I’m Every \_\_\_\_” (Chaka Khan hit)

55 Ponzi scheme, say

56 Name hidden in “Her Majesty”

58 Tennis server’s stat

59 Zilch

60 Whole lot

63 Explosive letters

64 Exec focused on money

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | A | D | R | I | D |   | S | L | A | B |   | E | T | C |
| A | R | I | A | N | A |   | C | A | N | E |   | S | H | H |
| C | R | O | W | N | R | O | A | S | T | S |   | C | E | O |
| H | O | N |   | S | K | I | R | T | S | T | E | A | K | S |
| O | W | N | S |   | L | S | D |   | E | L | L | I | E |   |
|   | S | E | E | M | L | Y |   | R | A | D | I | A | N | T |
|   |   | T | E | A |   | A | O | L |   |   | T | K | O |   |
|   | F | A | S | H | I | O | N | P | L | A | T | E | S |   |
| S | O | N |   | L | U | G |   | O | R | E |   |   |   |   |
| T | R | E | E | R | A | T |   | T | W | E | E | P | S |   |
| E | M | C | E | E |   | L | A | H |   | S | I | P | S |   |
| W | E | D | G | E | S | A | L | A | D | S |   | G | I | N |
| P | R | O |   | B | O | W | T | I | E | P | A | S | T | A |
| A | L | T |   | O | R | E | O |   | E | A | S | T | E | R |
| N | Y | E |   | K | E | D | S |   | M | R | H | Y | D | E |

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 www.upuzzles.com

# Family Time Crossword

## The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

**ACROSS**

1. Grooves to pop music

5. (K) \_\_\_\_, Crackle and Pop (Rice Krispies mascots)

9. (K) Receive ownership of

12. (K) Region

13. (K) Throw a baseball with force

14. (K) Produce an egg

15. Any lived-in home

17. (K) Biblical flood vessel

18. Funky dance

19. (K) Part of a suitcase

21. (K) Sound enhancer for an electric guitar

22. Envy or pride, for example

23. Talk

26. Cancel a choice

31. It can cause one’s head to swell

32. (K) Ford foursome

33. Prosecute

34. (K) Something near your keyboard (2 words)

36. (K) Take in visually

37. (K) Suffix with “invent” or “act”

38. (K) “\_\_ be my pleasure to help!”

41. Brownie add-in, sometimes

44. (K) Type of U.S. military member

48. (K) Have a sickness

49. One worth imitating (2 words)

51. (K) Words that turn a miss into a Mrs. (2 words)

52. “\_\_ go brag!”

53. (K) Dalmatian doctors

54. (K) Number that makes division simple

55. Reason for an IOU note

56. “With the greatest of \_\_\_\_ ...”

**DOWN**

1. Sharp hook of a wire fence

2. (K) Chocolate cookie name

3. (K) Mexican money unit

4. Antelope with a fat, stubby nose

5. Type of bath for ewe? (2 words)

6. Sister in a convent

7. (K) Curved part of a foot

8. Greatly satisfies

9. (K) Happiness

10. (K) \_\_ Grey tea

11. (K) Youngster

16. (K) Barely lit, as a dark room

20. Zero, at the World Cup

23. (K) Diamond or emerald, for example

24. (K) “Many moons \_\_\_\_ ...”

25. A clear, seasoned broth

27. (K) “1989” or “Midnights,” for a Swiftie

28. Riverbed deposit

29. (K) Hint for an actor

30. (K) Football holder

32. Like a number of professors

35. (K) Simba, to Mufasa

39. Bagpiper’s cap

40. (K) Controlled the SUV

41. (K) “You’re walking too fast!”

42. Trusted helper

43. (K) Ripped apart

45. (K) Creative thought

46. (K) Brooklyn NBA team

47. (K) “Who \_\_\_\_ could it be?”

50. Ad-\_\_\_\_ (improvise)

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Finish to a singles match?

Look for the answer in next week’s paper.

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |    |
| 12 |    |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 19 |    | 20 |    |    |
|    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |
| 23 | 24 | 25 |    |    | 26 | 27 | 28 |    | 29 | 30 |    |
| 31 |    |    |    | 32 |    |    |    |    | 33 |    |    |
| 34 |    |    | 35 |    |    |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |
|    |    | 37 |    |    |    |    | 38 | 39 | 40 |    |    |
| 41 | 42 |    |    |    | 43 |    | 44 |    | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| 48 |    |    |    | 49 |    | 50 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 51 |    |    |    | 52 |    |    |    |    | 53 |    |    |
| 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |    | 56 |    |    |

Previous riddle answer:

It can be well-placed?

29-A) PAIL

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8/3

Fore-sees by Drew Schmenner

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |    | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |    | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 |    |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |
| 23 |    |    |    | 24 |    |    |    |    |    | 25 | 26 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 27 |    |    | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    | 31 | 32 |
|    |    | 33 | 34 | 35 |    |    | 36 |    |    |    | 37 |    |    |    |
| 38 |    |    |    |    | 39 | 40 |    |    |    | 41 |    |    |    |    |
| 42 |    |    |    |    | 43 |    |    |    |    | 44 |    |    |    |    |
| 45 |    |    |    | 46 |    |    |    | 47 | 48 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    | 49 |    |    |    |    |    | 50 |    |    | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| 55 | 56 |    |    | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    |
| 62 |    |    | 63 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    |    |
| 65 |    |    |    |    | 66 |    |    |    |    | 67 |    |    |    |    |
| 68 |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |    |    | 70 |    |    |    |    |

Horoscopes

Horoscope: June 26 – July 1, 2026

Cancer season deepens this week, turning attention toward home, family, loyalty, and emotional security. Yet the sky is anything but still. Mars enters Gemini on June 28, bringing sharper words, quicker decisions, and more mental energy. Mercury turns retrograde in Cancer on June 29, so family conversations, memories, and domestic plans may require patience and revision. The Full Moon in Capricorn, also on June 29, highlights responsibility, ambition, and the need to balance private life with public duty. Then Jupiter enters Leo on June 30, adding warmth, courage, and creative optimism. This is a week to speak carefully, act wisely, and remember that confidence works best when paired with compassion.

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Your words carry extra force this week, so use them with care. A family matter or domestic plan may need to be revisited, and it would be wise not to rush anyone into agreement. The Full Moon highlights career responsibilities, reminding you that ambition must be balanced with emotional maturity.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Money, communication, and personal values are linked now. A conversation about finances may circle back for another round, but that is not a bad thing. The Full Moon encourages you to look at the bigger picture and ask whether your current plans truly support the life you want.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Mars enters your sign and gives you new energy, but it may also make you impatient. Think before speaking, especially when emotions are involved. Mercury retrograde asks you to review financial priorities, while Jupiter’s move into Leo favors learning, writing, and connections that inspire you.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

With Mercury turning retrograde in your sign, you may find yourself revisiting old conversations or reconsidering personal decisions. Don’t see this as a setback. The Full Moon in your opposite sign brings relationship matters into focus and helps you see what needs balance, clarity, or closure.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Jupiter enters your sign on June 30, beginning a more expansive and confident cycle. You may feel a sense of possibility returning, but don’t rush ahead before you are ready. The Full Moon asks you to handle work, health, and daily responsibilities with discipline. Build the foundation first; the spotlight will follow.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

Friendships and group plans may require patience

as Mercury turns retrograde. Someone may misunderstand your intentions, or you may need to revisit a shared goal. The Full Moon brings clarity around creativity, romance, or children. What matters most will become easier to see.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Career matters and family responsibilities may pull in opposite directions. The Full Moon asks you to restore balance between your public obligations and private needs. Mars in Gemini favors travel, study, or bold ideas, but Mercury retrograde warns against making promises before you have checked the details.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

This is a strong week for insight, but not for assumptions. The Full Moon highlights communication, and Mercury retrograde may bring back a conversation you thought was finished. Listen closely. Jupiter’s move into Leo begins to brighten your professional prospects, especially where leadership is concerned.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Shared finances, trust, and emotional commitments may need careful handling. Mercury retrograde asks you to review agreements before moving forward. The Full Moon brings money matters into focus, while Jupiter’s move into Leo restores optimism around travel, study, publishing, or a wider goal.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

The Full Moon in your sign marks an important moment of self-awareness. You may see clearly what you need, what you can no longer carry, and where you must stand firm. Relationships may require patience as Mercury retrograde stirs old feelings. Speak plainly, but with kindness.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Work, health, and daily routines may need revision. Mercury retrograde can complicate schedules, so leave room for changes and double-check practical details. Mars in Gemini boosts creativity and social energy, while Jupiter in Leo begins a promising cycle for partnerships.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Romance, creativity, and personal joy may come with mixed signals this week. Mercury retrograde asks you not to jump to conclusions, especially in matters of the heart. The Full Moon highlights friendships and long-term hopes, helping you recognize who supports your future and who drains your energy.

Thought for the Week:

When life asks you to slow down, it may be protecting you from the wrong turn. Review what matters, speak with care, and let confidence grow from clarity.

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

1 actress Graham (7)

2 consigning to a lower spot (10)

3 what architects measure (10)

4 rug location (5)

5 stuck like glue (5)

6 type of Japanese pottery (7)

7 dependent on other factors (9)

SOLUTIONS

|      |     |     |     |     |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| DIME | HE  | FL  | LEG | NG  |
| SA   | OOR | ER  | ORY | NSI |
| ATH  | PRO | TS  | ONS | ATI |
| UMA  | RE  | CLU | NG  | VIS |

PREVIOUS ANSWERS: wers: 1. STEER 2. TINS 3. DIMINISHED  
 4. STEAL 5. GRAPHICS 6. LAUDATORY 7. OVEN

The answers to this week’s puzzles can be found in next week’s issue.

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[www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/subscribe](http://www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/subscribe)



# Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

(submit yours at [www.NewCanaanSentinel.com](http://www.NewCanaanSentinel.com) under Submit A...)

## Journey into the World of Tea | Tea 101 & Tea Diplomacy

3 PM at Grace Farms

Discover the global story of tea in this immersive tasting experience. Tea enthusiasts and curious beginners alike are invited to sample notable varietals from around the world while learning how tea has shaped culture, diplomacy, and human connection throughout history. Tickets are \$25/ non-members, \$20/members, and available at [gracefarms.org/event/journey-into-the-world-of-tea-tea-101-tea-diplomacy](http://gracefarms.org/event/journey-into-the-world-of-tea-tea-101-tea-diplomacy).

## Waveny Summer Concert | Doug Allen – Singer Songwriter, Acoustic Pop

7:30-9:30 PM at Waveny Park (Back Lawn)

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of live music at Waveny Park.

## Thursday, July 16

### Medicare Basics and How to Use Medicare.

gov | Presented by Kathy Collins, CHOICES Certified Medicare Counselor

11 AM at the Lapham Center

This presentation is for Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, and individuals approaching retirement who want to gain a better understanding of their Medicare coverage options and learn how to use the Medicare website, Medicare.gov. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

## Friday, July 17

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

8:30 – 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center

Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.

## Saturday, July 18

### New Canaan Village Fair & Sidewalk Sale

9 AM- 4 PM in Downtown New Canaan

Join New Canaan for their 2026 Village Fair & Sidewalk Sale. Local merchants will move out to the street and be joined by other vendors and organizations from all over Fairfield County on Elm, Main and Forest Streets. A family friendly pedestrian mall is created by closing these streets to vehicles so you can come and shop with ease.

## Botanical Watercolor Painting with Sarah Crossman

10:30 AM- 1:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center

Join this workshop inspired by a seasonal summer bloom. The artistic subject will be a classic heat-loving annual flower from the daisy family, like a zinnia or cosmos. Perfect for all skill levels -- participants will learn step-by-step how to create a finished painting from the provided reference image. Registration is \$95/non-members, \$80/members, and available at [carriagebarn.org/event/botanical-watercolor-painting-summer/](http://carriagebarn.org/event/botanical-watercolor-painting-summer/).

## Learning with Nature | Edimental Fruit Trees

10:30 AM- 12 PM at Grace Farms

Learn how to prepare, plant, and care for edimentals – ornamental plants that are also delicious. Focused on fruits that thrive locally, including apples, crabapples, plums, pears, and peaches, this hands-on workshop explores site selection, varieties, and seasonal care. Tickets are \$20/non-members, \$16/members, and available at [gracefarms.org/event/learning-with-nature-edimental-fruit-trees](http://gracefarms.org/event/learning-with-nature-edimental-fruit-trees).

## Tuesday, July 21

### Chat and Breakfast with NCPD Officer Roy Adams

10 AM at the Lapham Center

Join Office Roy for an interactive and informative chat about concerns and happenings in town. Breakfast, coffee, and juice will be served. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

## Art Appreciation | Adventures in Architecture: Power

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Dan Cruickshank leads us on an exploration of buildings as gigantic statements of power having led to some of the most impressive structures on the planet. The fantasies of dictators, kings, sultans, warriors and the ruling classes are explored here. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620

### Candlelit Soundbath

6:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center

Step into a realm of tranquility and profound relaxation at this candlelit sound bath experience with Diane & Catherine of Grounded Meditation. After a brief grounding meditation, amidst the glowing landscape at the Carriage Barn, you'll be enveloped in a symphony of harmonious vibrations, produced by an assortment of crystal and Himalayan singing bowls, chimes, gongs, drums and more. Registration is \$40/person and available at [carriagebarn.org/event/candlelit-soundbath/](http://carriagebarn.org/event/candlelit-soundbath/).

## Wednesday, July 22

### Sweet 250: A Celebration of American Desserts

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Bring your favorite homemade treat—or simply come to sample a variety of desserts. Share sweets and recipes then vote for the crowd favorite. From apple pie to s'mores bars to peach cobbler and more, you're sure to have a fun summer afternoon. Wearing red, white, and blue is encouraged. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

## Waveny Summer Concert | Finster – 70's to Today's Hits

7:30-9:30 PM at Waveny Park (Back Lawn)

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of live music at Waveny Park.

## Wednesday, July 23

### Free Medicare Counseling

By Appointment at the Lapham Center

A CHOICES certified Medicare counselor, provides free, objective, information about Medicare options and related benefits including enrolling, choosing a supplemental plan and Part D prescription drug plan, and understanding Medicare Advantage plans. Available to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Free. Call (203) 594-3620 to schedule an appointment.

## Heirlooms and the Stories Behind Them

10-11:30 AM at the Lapham Center

Some treasures carry monetary value. Others carry family history. The lucky ones carry both. Join us for a special workshop led by appraisal expert, Kelly Daniel, and family chronicler, Gail Sheffler. Bring one object you hope to pass on someday. Kelly will offer an approximate appraisal of its monetary value, and Gail will help you capture the story behind it, so that future generations can understand why it mattered. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

## Friday, July 24

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

8:30 – 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center

Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.

## Tuesday, July 28

### Art Appreciation | Adventures in Architecture: Monaco

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Built on a cliff more than 60 meters high, the Prince's Palace dominates Monaco and overlooks the sea. The construction started in 1215 and is still in progress today. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620

## Fairfield County Dance Festival on the Green

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Merrill Event Lawn

The Thomas/Ortiz Dance Company and East Coast Contemporary Ballet are coming to the library as a part of a series of free outdoor dance performances throughout Fairfield County to enable greater access to the arts and arts education. Please bring your own chairs, blankets, and food. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/fairfield-county-dance-festival-green-202572](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/fairfield-county-dance-festival-green-202572).

## Wednesday, July 29

### A Summer Afternoon Tea with Treats

2 PM at the Lapham Center

We hope to see you at teatime for a relaxing afternoon with friends, both old and new. Raise a cup – and that pinkie finger – as we enjoy a variety of teas and treats! Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

## Waveny Summer Concert | The Bookends – 60's and 70's Songs

7:30-9:30 PM at Waveny Park (Back Lawn)

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of live music at Waveny Park.

## Friday, July 31

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

8:30 – 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center

Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.

## SAVE THE DATE

## Tuesday, August 4

### Creating Sugar Scrubs and Body Butters

2 PM at the Lapham Center

Treat yourself – and your skin – to an afternoon concocting luxurious, spa-worthy products that will smooth, invigorate, and hydrate. Karry Wilson, of Riverfield House in Westport, will demonstrate how to create these lush products, and everyone will take home their own original scrub and butter to use in their private “spa” at home. \$20/person. Spots are limited, call (203) 594-3620 to register.

## Summer Movie: Stand by Me

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room

Join for a screening of *Stand by Me*. Directed by Rob Reiner (1947-2025), this coming-of-age drama begins with one simple question: “Do you guys want to see a dead body?” On the eve of junior high, four friends venture out to find the body of a missing boy in what would be their last (and most memorable) adventure together. Register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/movie-screening-stand-me-197550](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/movie-screening-stand-me-197550).

## Wednesday, August 5

### Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinic

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center

Ellen Samai, RN, from New Canaan's Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommended you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free. For more information, call (203) 594-3620

## Thursday, August 6

### Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae or Cone

1-2 PM at the Lapham Center

There is no better way to spend a hot afternoon than enjoying this old-fashioned summertime classic. Choose your favorite flavors, pile on the toppings, drizzle with sauces and create your very own cone or sundae masterpiece. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

## Free Medicare Counseling

By Appointment at the Lapham Center

A CHOICES certified Medicare counselor, provides free, objective, information about Medicare options and related benefits including enrolling, choosing a supplemental plan and Part D prescription drug plan, and understanding Medicare Advantage plans. Available to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Free. Call (203) 594-3620 to schedule an appointment.

## Wednesday, August 12

### Women and Money Roundtable: How to Make Sense of Today's Financial Markets

1 PM Online

Join Financial Advisors Julia Strayer and Liz Maccarone for a series of easy-to-follow discussions on how to make sense of today's financial markets. They will cover the latest market news and how that might affect your financial decisions. More information is available at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/women-and-money-roundtable-how-make-sense-todays-financial-markets-221792](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/women-and-money-roundtable-how-make-sense-todays-financial-markets-221792).

## Wednesday, August 19

### Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinic

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center

Ellen Samai, RN, from New Canaan's Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommended you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free. For more information, call (203) 594-3620

## Thursday, August 20

### Life Reimagined

1 PM at the Lapham Center

Purposeful living promotes happiness, longevity, a healthier heart and reduces the risk of Alzheimer's and other diseases. Hosts Marcy Rand, LCSW, Director, New Canaan's Human Services Department, and Robin Rockafellow, LCSW, lead an informal and friendly group discussion of who we were, who we are, and the creative ways to explore our interests, abilities, knowledge, and activities in connection with the community around us. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

## Saturday, August 22

### Learning with Nature | Monarch Migration

10:30 AM at Grace Farms

Join Grace Farms Horticulture Director Kimberly Kelly and experts from Kansas State University for a hands-on field study to safely record, tag, and release monarch butterflies. Learn how to net, tag, and record Monarchs in a way that supports the best outcome for healthy butterflies to survive migration, winter, the flight north in late spring, and successful reproduction in late summer. Registration is \$20/non-members, \$16/ members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/learning-with-nature-monarch-migration>.

## Thursday, August 27

### Free Medicare Counseling

By Appointment at the Lapham Center

A CHOICES certified Medicare counselor, provides free, objective, information about Medicare options and related benefits including enrolling, choosing a supplemental plan and Part D prescription drug plan, and understanding Medicare Advantage plans. Available to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Free. Call (203) 594-3620 to schedule an appointment.

## BLOOD DRIVES

## Friday, June 26

Fusion Academy

66 Gatehouse Road

Stamford, CT 06902

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

St. Matthew's Church

382 Cantitoe St.

Bedford, NY 10506

10:30 AM – 3:30 PM

VFW

465 Riverside Avenue

Westport, CT 06880

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

## Monday, June 29

Norwalk Hospital

34 Maple Street

Norwalk, CT 06856

1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Green's Farms Church

71 Hillandale Rd

Westport, CT 06880

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## Wednesday, July 1

Stamford Church of Christ

1264 High Ridge Road

Stamford, CT 06903

8:00 AM – 1:30 PM

## Tuesday, June 23

American Legion

60 County Road

Norwalk, CT 06851

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

## Support Services & Meetings

## Wednesday, July 1

### Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Group with the Waveny LifeCare Network

2 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room

Family members, caregivers, and friends are invited to meet for informative and supportive group sessions to help navigate changes related to memory loss and cognitive decline. Register at <https://shorturl.at/t2bWL>.

## Fri, Sept 18 & Fri, Oct 16

### Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade, and Refer

11 AM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin

Meeting Room

Those trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer – the 3 simple steps anyone can use to help prevent suicide. This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper (someone in a position to recognize a crisis and the warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide). For September 18, register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/copy-suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-188897](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/copy-suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-188897). For October 16, register at [newcanaanlibrary.org/event/copy-suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-188898](http://newcanaanlibrary.org/event/copy-suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-188898).

## Every Friday

AA Speaker Meeting Wheelchair Access

Fridays at 7:30 AM

Congregational Church of New Canaan

## Every Saturday

AA Meeting-Sober Citizens Group

Saturdays at 9:15 AM

First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

AA Meeting-Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Group

Saturdays at 10:30 AM

First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

Lost Then Found NA Meeting

Wheelchair Accessible

Saturdays at 7 PM

United Methodist Church (back entrance)

## Every Monday

AA Meeting

Wheelchair Access

Mondays at 7:30 AM

Congregational Church of New Canaan

Adult Child Al-Anon Meeting

Mondays at 12 PM

St. Mark's Church, Youth Room

## Every Tuesday

Adult Child Alanon Meeting

Tuesdays at 12 PM

St. Mark's Parish House, Conf. Room

## Every Wednesday

AA Step Meeting

Wheelchair Access

Wednesdays at 7:30 AM

Congregational Church of New Canaan

Al-Anon Parent's & Newcomer's Mtg.

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Silver Hill, Jorgenson House

208 Valley Rd., New Canaan

## Every Thursday

AA Big Book Meeting, Wheelchair Access

Thursdays at 7:30 AM

Congregational Church of New Canaan

New Canaan Parent Support Group

7- 8:30 PM

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

New Canaan

## OUR NEIGHBORS

## Tues, July 14 to Saturday, August 1

Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*

Times Vary at the Westport Country Playhouse

25 Powers Court

Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

Tickets are available at [westportplayhouse.org](http://westportplayhouse.org).

## Sunday, August 23

Filling in the Blanks Unite to Fight 5K

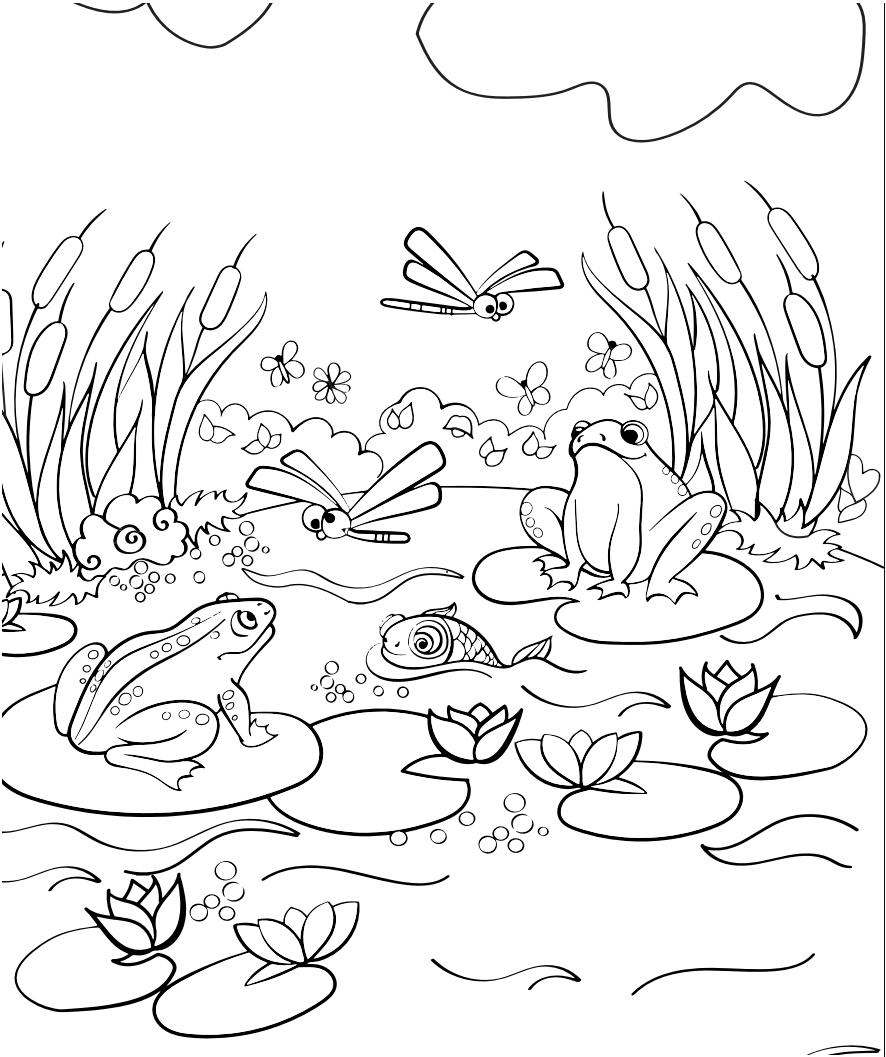
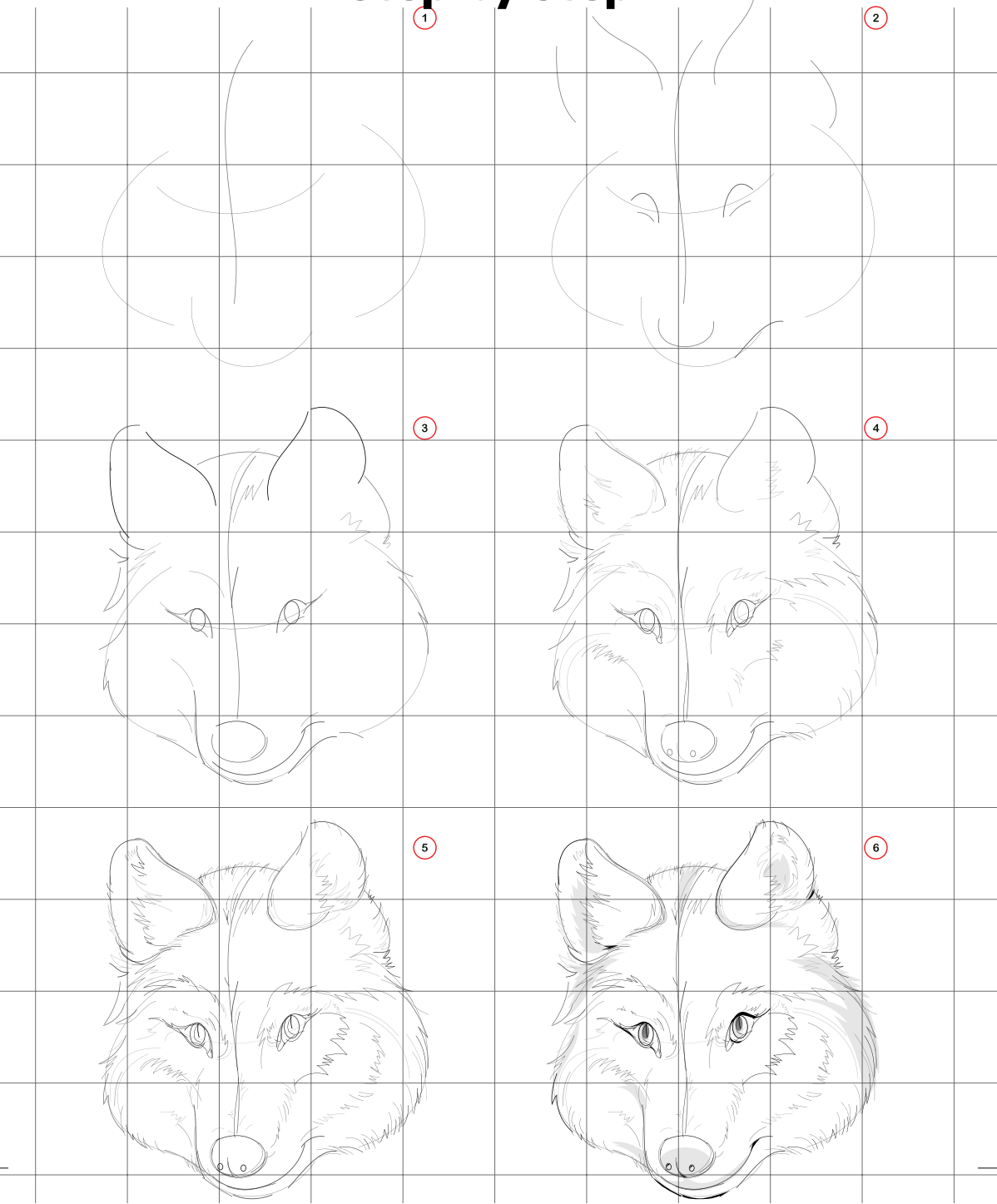
8-11 AM at Mill River Park, 1010 Washington Blvd, Stamford

Enjoy a 5k race and kids fun run with food, prizes, and t-shirts, all while benefitting Filling in the Blanks. More information is available at [runsignup.com/Race/CT/Stamford/UnitetoFight](http://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Stamford/UnitetoFight).

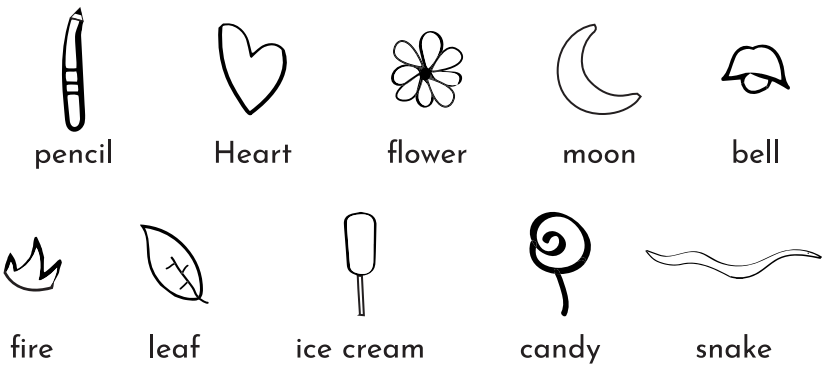


# GRAB YOUR SKETCH BOOK

## step by step



### FIND ALL HIDDEN



|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | 3 |   |   |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |   |
|   | 1 | 4 |   |
|   |   | 1 | 3 |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | 1 |   |   |
| 2 | 3 | 4 |   |
|   |   |   | 3 |
| 3 |   | 1 | 4 |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 |   | 4 | 3 |
|   |   | 2 |   |
|   |   | 3 | 2 |
|   | 2 |   | 4 |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 1 |   |
| 4 |   | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 |   | 1 |

# SUDOKU

Each row, column, nonet can contain each number only once. Answers below.

| Easy |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5    |   |   |   | 7 |   | 6 |   |
|      | 7 | 4 |   |   | 6 |   |   |
| 9    |   |   |   |   | 8 |   |   |
|      |   | 7 |   | 1 | 4 | 8 |   |
|      | 4 |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |
|      |   | 2 | 8 | 5 |   | 7 |   |
|      |   |   | 6 |   |   |   | 4 |
|      |   |   | 1 |   |   | 2 | 8 |
|      |   | 9 |   | 3 |   |   | 7 |

| Hard |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6    |   |   | 5 | 7 | 1 |   |   |
| 2    | 1 |   |   |   | 4 | 5 |   |
|      |   |   |   | 4 | 6 |   | 5 |
| 9    |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |
| 7    | 6 |   | 3 | 2 |   |   |   |
|      |   | 2 | 1 |   |   | 4 | 9 |
|      |   |   | 8 | 9 | 3 |   | 5 |
|      |   |   |   |   |   |   | 8 |

| Very Hard |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|           |   |   |   |   | 9 | 6 | 1 |
|           |   |   | 2 |   |   |   | 8 |
| 7         |   |   |   | 6 | 4 |   |   |
|           |   |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |
|           |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |
|           |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |
|           |   |   | 9 | 7 |   |   | 3 |
| 4         |   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |
| 9         | 7 | 1 | 6 |   |   |   |   |

| Easy |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|      |   | 7 | 3 |  | 1 |   | 4 |
|      | 3 |   |   |  |   | 8 |   |
| 6    |   | 1 | 7 |  |   |   | 9 |
|      | 9 | 3 |   |  |   |   |   |
|      |   | 2 | 8 |  | 4 | 1 |   |
|      |   |   |   |  |   | 2 | 7 |
| 2    |   |   |   |  | 6 | 9 |   |
|      |   | 9 |   |  |   |   | 6 |
|      | 6 |   | 4 |  | 5 | 7 |   |

| Hard |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3    |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |
|      |   |   | 8 | 7 |   |   |   |
|      |   | 2 | 1 |   |   | 4 |   |
|      | 1 |   |   | 4 |   | 5 | 2 |
|      | 2 | 6 |   |   | 4 | 7 |   |
| 9    | 4 |   |   | 3 |   | 8 |   |
|      | 7 |   |   |   | 9 | 2 |   |
|      |   |   |   | 2 | 5 |   |   |
|      | 5 |   |   |   |   |   | 8 |

| Very Hard |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|           | 6 |   |   |   | 9 | 7 |   |
|           |   |   |   | 3 |   |   | 6 |
| 5         |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |
| 4         |   | 8 |   | 9 |   |   |   |
|           | 3 |   | 4 | 5 | 1 |   | 2 |
|           |   |   |   | 6 |   | 4 | 1 |
|           |   |   | 5 |   |   |   | 9 |
| 7         |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |
|           |   | 5 | 3 |   |   |   | 8 |

### Sudoku answers

|                   |                     |                   |                   |                     |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 7 2 3 4 5 6 8 9   | 4 8 9 2 3 5 1 6 7   | 3 6 8 4 9 5 7 2 1 | 5 4 2 3 8 9 6 7 1 | 6 3 7 1 4 6 2 5 8 9 | 8 4 5 2 3 9 1 7 6 |
| 2 4 1 7 3 8 9 6 5 | 8 7 4 6 9 3 2 1 5   | 4 3 5 9 6 2 8 1 7 | 1 6 9 2 5 7 3 4 8 | 9 7 1 6 4 3 5 8 2   | 6 3 9 5 7 3 4 8 1 |
| 2 4 1 7 3 8 9 6 5 | 8 7 4 6 9 3 2 1 5   | 4 3 5 9 6 2 8 1 7 | 1 6 9 2 5 7 3 4 8 | 9 7 1 6 4 3 5 8 2   | 6 3 9 5 7 3 4 8 1 |
| 5 7 9 6 8 4 3 1 2 | 9 1 6 3 2 8 4 7 5   | 6 2 1 7 4 8 3 5 9 | 7 8 3 1 6 4 2 5 9 | 2 1 7 6 8 4 5 9 3   | 2 1 7 6 8 4 5 9 3 |
| 4 1 8 2 5 7 6 3 9 | 1 2 8 6 7 9 4 3 5   | 1 9 3 8 6 4 7 5 2 | 8 1 4 7 3 6 9 2 5 | 1 2 8 6 7 9 4 3 5   | 1 2 8 6 7 9 4 3 5 |
| 6 3 7 1 4 5 2 8 9 | 9 5 2 8 6 3 7 4 1   | 7 5 2 8 6 3 4 1 9 | 3 9 5 4 1 2 8 7 6 | 7 6 4 3 2 5 9 8 1   | 7 6 4 3 2 5 9 8 1 |
| 9 5 2 8 6 3 7 4 1 | 6 8 7 9 5 4 3 1 2   | 8 4 6 5 1 9 2 7 3 | 6 2 7 5 9 8 1 3 4 | 3 8 2 1 5 7 6 4 9   | 3 8 2 1 5 7 6 4 9 |
| 3 8 6 9 7 2 1 4 5 | 2 5 9 4 6 1 7 3 8   | 5 1 9 2 7 3 4 6 8 | 2 5 8 9 7 1 4 6 3 | 4 7 6 8 9 3 2 1 5   | 4 7 6 8 9 3 2 1 5 |
| 8 1 3 6 4 7 9 5 2 | 6 7 4 3 8 9 6 5 7 2 | 9 4 7 6 5 3 8 2 1 | 9 3 6 8 7 5 4 1 2 | 5 9 7 1 4 6 2 7 3   | 5 9 7 1 4 6 2 7 3 |
| 4 9 5 8 7 6 3 2 1 | 3 8 1 2 9 4 5 6 7   | 3 8 1 2 9 4 5 6 7 | 9 3 6 8 7 5 4 1 2 | 4 7 6 8 9 3 2 1 5   | 4 7 6 8 9 3 2 1 5 |

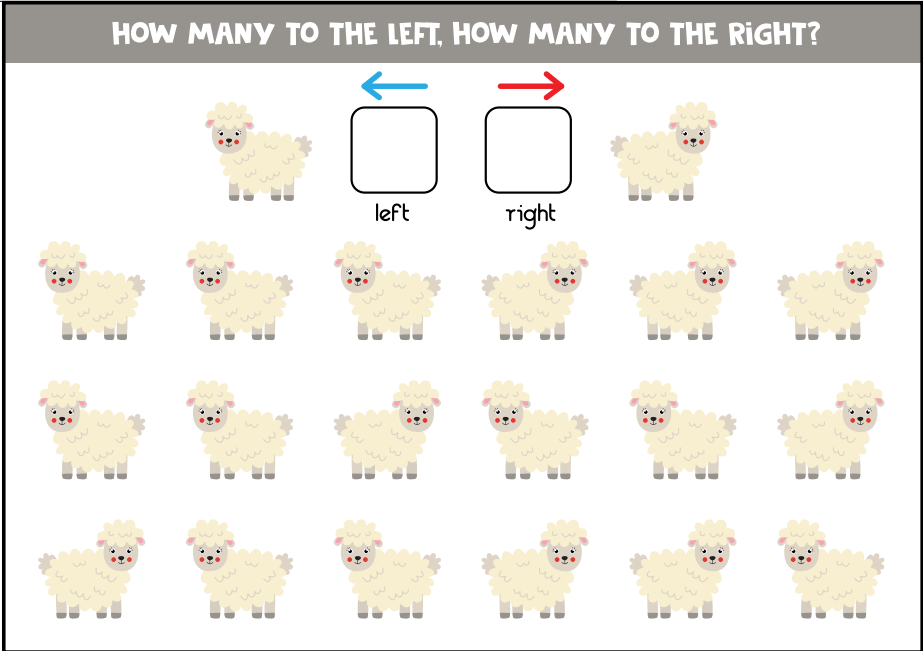


HOW MANY TO THE LEFT, HOW MANY TO THE RIGHT?

←

→

leftright

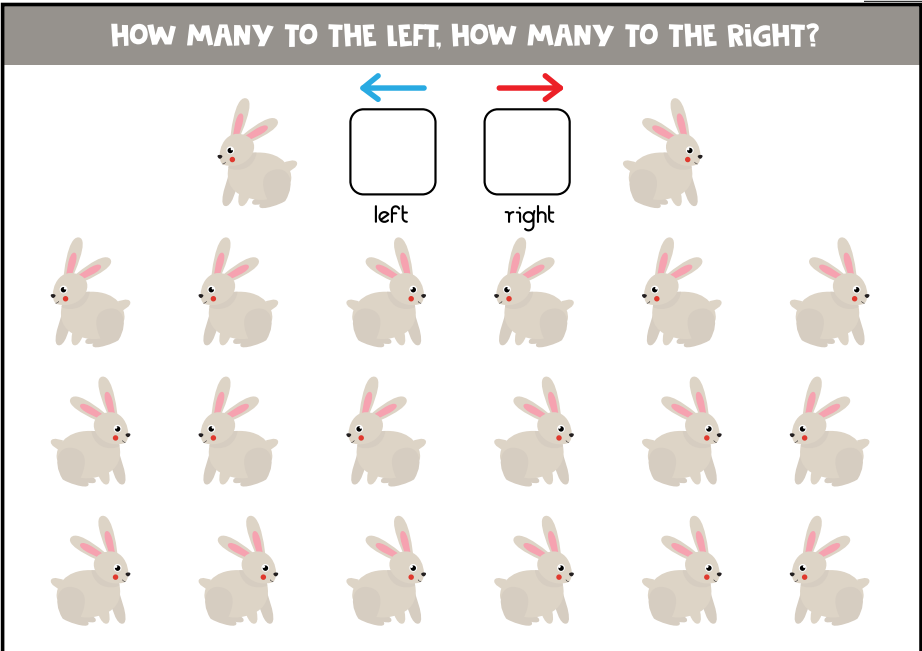


HOW MANY TO THE LEFT, HOW MANY TO THE RIGHT?

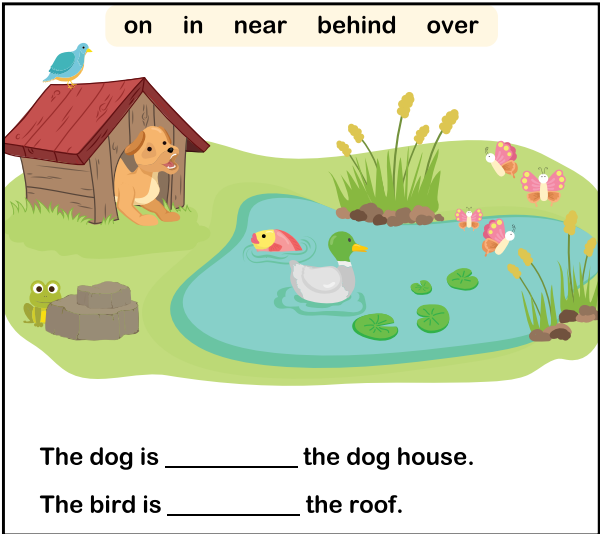
←

→

leftright



on in near behind over



The dog is \_\_\_\_\_ the dog house.  
The bird is \_\_\_\_\_ the roof.

 = 8

 =  - 3

 = 2 + 

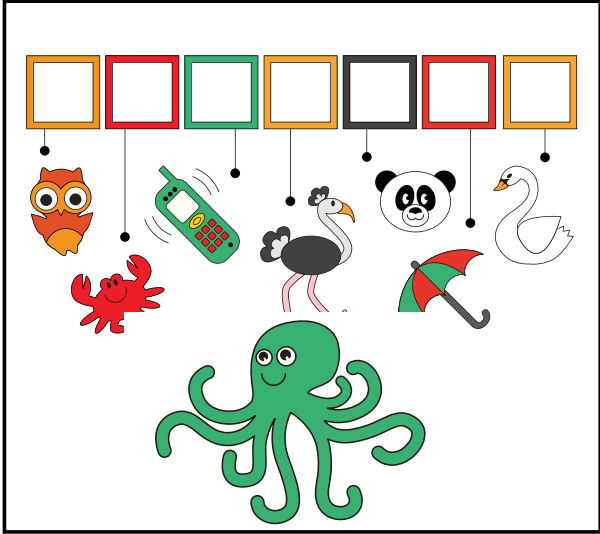
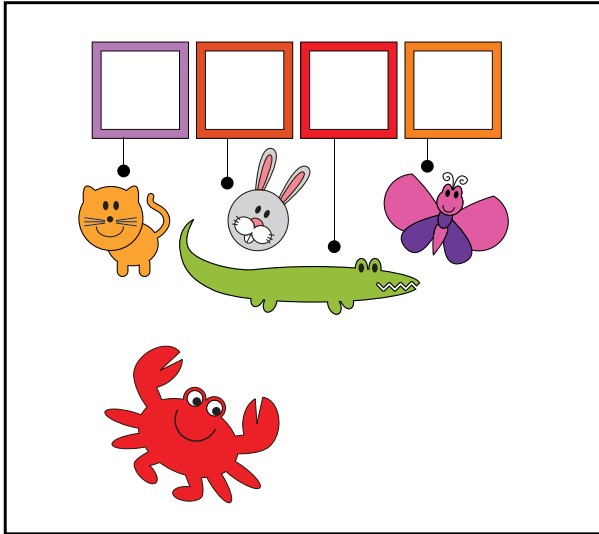
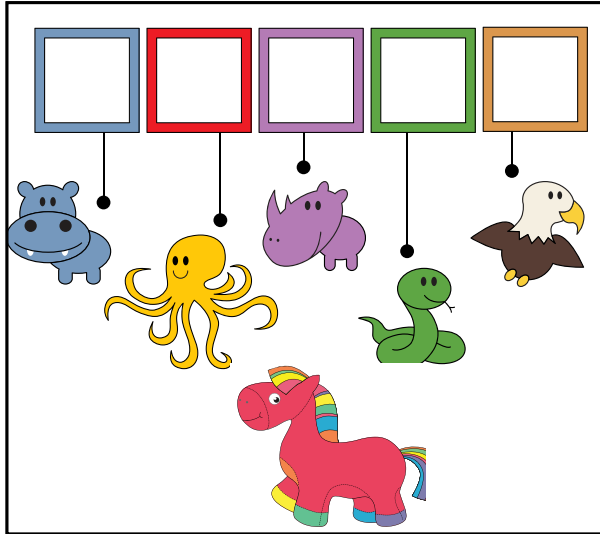
 -  +  =  ?

 = 3

 =  - 1

 =  + 2

 -  +  =  ?



COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: THE DORMOUSE

# The Fantasy Creature in Real-Life



They inhabit literature, language, and culture. Creatures we have all heard of—or believe we know—whose true identities and natural histories prove elusive. Familiar yet mysterious, they dwell on the fringe of recollection and understanding. For every Springhare there is a Skunk bear. For every Timberdoodle, a Siren. Yet there are few animals simultaneously more familiar yet less known than the dormouse. Penned into literary history by Lewis Carroll, the dormouse is assumed to be a singular creature. While its British embodiment is the Hazel dormouse, Muscardinus avellanarius, the dormouse is not one, but 29 known species ranging across Europe, Asia, and Africa.

So, exactly what are these small nocturnal creatures? Dormice are mouse-like rodents with long furry squirrel-like tails and almost universal familiarity. Typically, brownish above and whitish below, and ranging in size from 2.5-8 inches in length and from .5-6.5 ounces in weight, they occupy the ecological roles of both mice and squirrels.

As omnivores, dormice fuel their tiny bodies with fruit, seeds, flowers, nectar, berries, pollen, and insects. Ever opportunistic, dormice readily target protein-rich insect prey as well as energy-rich nuts—especially Hazelnuts—to stoke up on lifesaving fat to get them through extended periods of hibernation.

It is the dormouse’s name which alludes to this hibernation, which is nothing short of extraordinary. The name is likely derived from the French and Spanish verb, dormir—to sleep, or possibly



*They inhabit literature, language, and culture. Creatures we have all heard of—or believe we know—whose true identities and natural histories prove elusive.*

from the French feminine form, dormeuse—sleeper. It is this hibernation which gives the dormouse a keen edge on the competition. In temperate climes, after undergoing hyper-foraging to bolster its energy reserves, the dormouse will either appropriate a bird nest or construct one of its own (in the trees or hidden on the ground) and settle in for a long winter’s sleep of six months or more. In fact, the record hibernation for a Hazel dormouse was an astounding 11 months. Yet the dormouse has a failsafe plan, waking up during especially lengthy hibernation cycles for a midwinter snack.

With over one third of the planet’s 6,500 (and counting) mammal species belonging to the Order Rodentia, rodents

have evolved to fill nearly all terrestrial niches on the planet’s continents, except Antarctica. These remarkable creatures share a common trait of continuously growing incisors and highly adaptable behaviors honed over millions of years. In the case of dormice, that pedigree has been refined over more than 30 million years in Mother Nature’s Research and Development Department!

As with so many of the planet’s most successful creatures, there is more to the little dormouse than meets the eye. Among the dormouse’s suite of physical adaptations that mark it as an exceptional climber are its sharp claws, strongly grasping toes, and balancing tail. These confer rapid climbing ability, sure grip, and balance at the tips of

shoots and twigs, enabling the dormouse to evade weasels, foxes, and other mammalian carnivores. It is not simply a host of physical adaptations that aid these petite mammals, their behavioral adaptation of strong family bonds consistently runs in their family tree. As creatures who live in families, their ultra-keen senses of sight, hearing, smell, and touch (by means of their long whiskers) are amplified—conferring benefit to each individual in the family group.

Among the dormouse’s other innate traits is surprising longevity for a rodent of its size. Whereas typical House mice and their wild cousins may live 1-2 or sometimes 3 years, the dormouse frequently lives up to 5 years. In the case of the



So, what is it we can learn from the dormouse? Most immediately, we can study these small creatures more closely. Affected by habitat and climate disruption, the more we can protect the world around them, the more we can benefit from the knowledge they offer us.

Hidden but not dormant, we all possess special abilities. Like the dormouse, we are often familiar to those around us, yet we are only partially understood. To be most effective, we may leave our abilities in reserve and reveal our innate talents, skills, and teamwork when we need them most. We can look to our families for support and offer our support in turn to help us negotiate the rigors of the world around us. Employing the ultimate dormouse strategy for success, we can reserve our energies to gather our strength and explore the world with keen eyes for the opportunities we discover—

together.

The Dormouse

Edible dormouse (its actual and unfortunate name), an astonishing life span of 13 years has been recorded, making it the subject of scientific longevity research as well as defying the odds, and our understanding of what is possible.

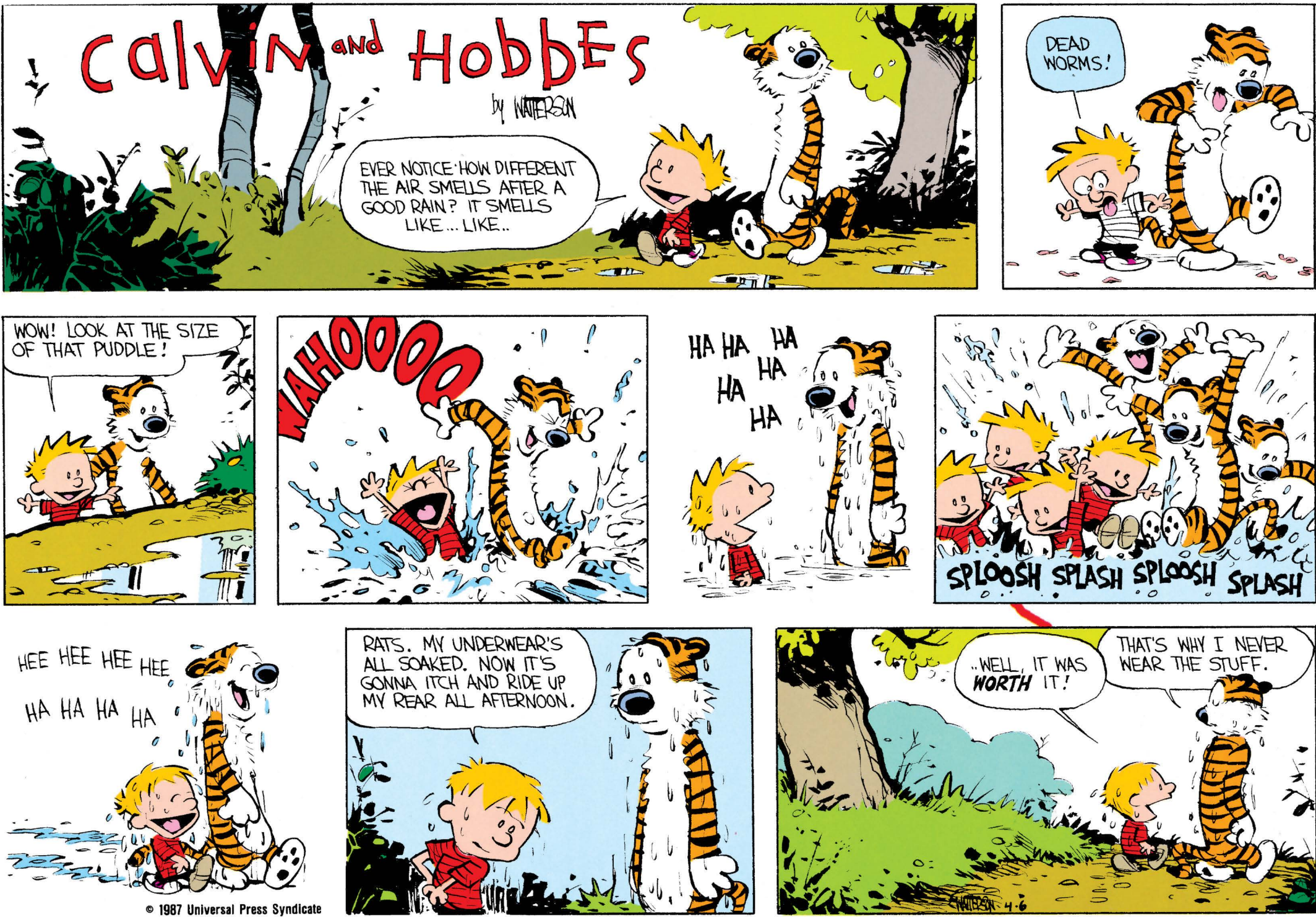
Jim Knox serves as the Curator of Education for Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo and as a Science Adviser for The Bruce Museum. His passions include studying our planet’s rarest creatures and sharing his work with others who love the natural world.





EDUCATION

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